China
TOURISM
SICHUAN SPECIAL

110

ALONG SICHUAN'S RIVERS • MUNI GULLY • SEA OF BAMBOO • 'GHOST CITY' • EMBROIDERY MAGIC

FOLLOW US TO
TOMORROW

汾河牌

注册 商标

PRODUCTS LIST

NAME	PURITY
1. BBPD-PVC INITIATOR	88.00MIN
2. CENTRALITE NO.2	
3. ADIPIC ACID	99.50MIN
4. CHLOROBENZENE	99.50MIN
5. CHLORACETIC ACID	96.50MIN
6. TDI	99.50MIN
7. CYCLOHEXANONE	99.50MIN
8. N-METHYLANILINE	99.50MIN
9. N-ETHYLANILINE	98.00MIN
10. DCP INITIATOR	85MIN
11. PVC	
12. ESTERTIN RMS-784	
13. PHENOL (Freezing point 40.5°C)	

TAIYUAN CHEMICAL PLANT IS A SYNTHESIZING ENTERPRISE BASED ON CHLOR-ALKALI, PRODUCING MANY FUNDAMENTAL CHEMICALS. IT HAS AN INTEGRAL SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT, QUALITY CONTROL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH, ETC., AND IT IS TAKING AN IMPORTANT POSITION IN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IT ADMINISTERS THE TAIYUAN CHEMICAL PLANT IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION, WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO ENGAGE IN IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE AND ASSUMES SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS PROFITS AND LOSSES. ITS PRODUCTS ARE SOLD IN JAPAN, HONGKONG, USA, USSR, FRANCE, SINGAPORE, BULGARIA, RUMANIA AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, AND ENJOY A GOOD REPUTATION ALL OVER THE WORLD.

TAIYUAN CHEMICAL PLANT IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH REGULAR TRADE RELATIONS WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CUSTOMERS SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP TOGETHER.

TAIYUAN CHEMICAL PLANT IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION
ADD: TAIYUAN, SHANXI, CHINA TEL: 640349
TELEX: 28046 PYCP CN CABLE: 1132 TAIYUAN

Congratulations on the 9th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

Your Profit Is Our Chief Concern

KTC®
MADE IN CHINA

Established on February 26 1988 on the basis of the original China National Textiles I/E Corp., Guangdong Branch, which had been in the I/E business for over thirty years, Guangdong Provincial Textiles Imp. & Exp. Corp. (Group) Garments Company is keen to develop economic and trade relations with foreign business entities. The group company and all its subsidiaries are legal persons.

The company deals in garments made from natural, synthetic and mixed fibres for all ages, garment accessories, fabrics, ornaments, packing materials, dyestuffs, mannequins, clothes racks, polyester padding, and technical equipment for garment processing. The company also handles processing business with imported materials as well as with clients' brands, styles and samples. C.M.T. trade, counter trade, barter trade, leasing and agency business, joint ventures with local and foreign enterprises, and domestic sales also fall within our scope of business.

CHINATEX

GUANGDONG TEXTILES IMPORT &
EXPORT GROUP GARMENTS COMPANY
Address: 63 Wen Ming Road, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 331750 336394　Telex: 44371 KTTEX CN
Cable: CANTEX GUANGZHOU or 3895　Fax: 336356

廣東省紡織品進出口(集團)花紗布公司

Guangdong Textiles Import & Export Group Cotton, Yarn & Piece-Goods Company

Business Scope

Cotton, cotton yarn, T/C yarn, ramie yarn (ramie/cotton yarn), grey cotton fabrics, grey T/C fabrics, grey ramie fabrics (or ramie/cotton and mixed fabrics), and other kinds of yarn, bleached, piece-dyed, printed, and yarn-dyed fabrics, denim, non-woven cloth, lining cloth, furnishing and upholstery fabrics, mosquito netting, fabrics of wool, knitted fabrics for domestic, military and industrial use made of natural, chemical and mixed fibres. The company also engages in import and export of accessories, dyes and chemicals, packing materials as well as technology and equipment for yarn and fabrics production and processing.

Besides the import and export business, the company undertakes the manufacture of products with imported materials or with clients' materials, samples, brands and patterns, compensation trade, counter trade, barter trade, leasing, consulting and agency services, as well as joint ventures, co-management and domestic sales.

CHINATEX

Address: 13-18/F., East Wing, Dong Jian Building,
503 Dong Feng Zhong Road, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 350306
Cable: "3890" Guangzhou
Telex: 441103 GDTEX CN　Fax: 350397

廣東省紡織品進出口(集團)針棉織品公司

Guangdong Textiles Import & Export (Group) Knitwears & Cotton Manufactured Goods Company

地址：中國廣州市東風中路503號
東建大廈東側13-18樓
Address: 13-18/F, East Wing, Dong Jian Building,
503 Dong Feng Zhong Road,
Guangzhou, China
電話 Tel: 350005
電掛 Cable: " 3891 " 廣州 Guangzhou
電傳 Telex: 441102 GDKNT CN
傳真 Fax: 349386

經營範圍

以天然纖維、化學纖維、混紡纖維和羊毛、兔毛等動物毛爲原料的各類針織品、棉織品、毛織品及其系列產品、配套商品暨補料、原料、染化料、片料、包裝物料、模特、支架和加工生產針棉毛織品的技術設備的進出口業務。

除經營一般進出口業務外，並經營進料加工、來料加工、來牌來圖來樣加工、補償貿易、對銷貿易、易貨貿易、租賃和代理業務，以及國外、國內合資、合作、聯營和內銷業務。

Business Scope

This company handles import and export business as follows: knitwear, cotton manufactured goods, woollen knitwear and associated products made of natural fibre, synthetic fibre and mixed fibre, wool, angora (rabbit hair) etc; materials, accessories, mannequins, racks; techniques and equipment for processing the above products.

Apart from usual import and export business, this company also accepts material processing, buyer's labels and samples/designs, as well as compensation trade, bartering and leasing, agency, joint-venture, co-operative, association both at home and abroad.

Depending upon business development, this company is authorized to participate in any kind of trade fair or overseas exhibition sponsored by the central government, provincial department concerned and the group corporation. The company is also entitled to send sales groups abroad or to invite foreign customers to the company for business, and to set up enterprises overseas, subject to approval by the government and the departments concerned.

红灯
MADE IN CHINA

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ZHEJIANG SILK

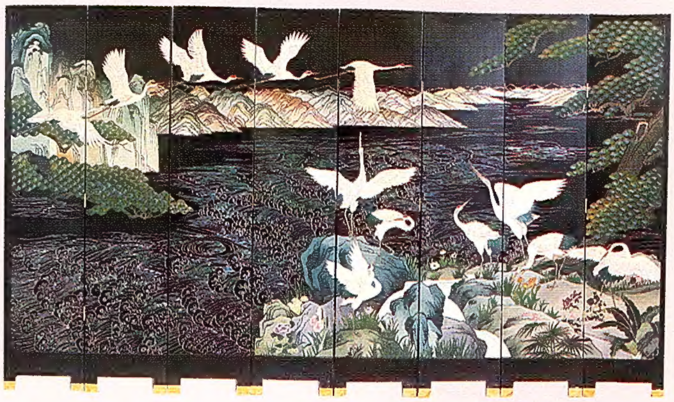
Once the Gift of Emperors — Now Available to All!

Zhejiang, the "Province of Silk", with more than 300 silk reeling, weaving, dyeing and printing factories, tops China in silk production and has gained a worldwide reputation. Our principal export items include: white steam filature, spun silk yarn, doupion silk, dyed pure silk jacquard fabrics, printed pure silk fabrics, mixed tapestry satin, rayon Soochow brocade, embroidered silk blouses and shirts, silk garments, silk woven art wear and pure silk knitted garments. Orders are most welcome. Contact us today for full details.

China National Silk Import & Export Corporation,
Zhejiang Branch, Hangzhou, China
Cable: "ZJSILK" HANGZHOU Fax: 0571-558411

sleeping beauty

Our main business scope is the import and export of
all types of arts and crafts, processing with supplied
materials or supplied patterns, assembling with
Main items include pottery and porcelain,
supplied parts, compensation trade, joint
ventures, co-management and barter.
drawnwork, lacquered wood
furniture, steel and wood furniture,
silk carpets, jewellery, straw and
wicker articles and special handicrafts.
We strive to offer good and consistent
service to both old and new friends. Business cooperation
and discussions are warmly welcomed.



SHANXI ARTS & CRAFTS
IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION
6 Xinjian Road, Taiyuan, China
Tel: 441241 Telex: 28034 ARTSX CN
Fax: 0351-441241

ZHEJIANG
NATIVE PRODUCE
& ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORP.

Address: No. 102, Fengqi Road,
Hangzhou, China
Tel: 557532 — 736, 538
Cable: CHINA TUHSU Hangzhou
Telex: 35013 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86-0571-552310

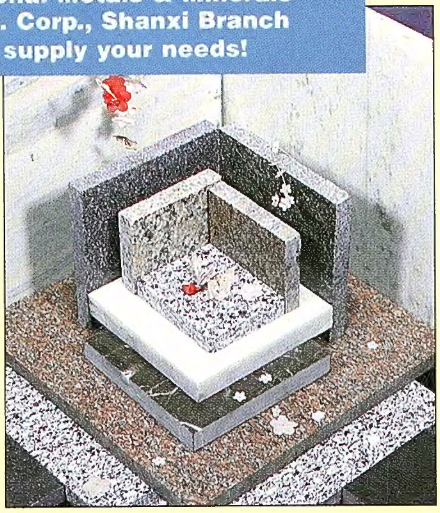
Zhejiang Province grows chillies in profusion. Large, with a fresh red colour, Zhejiang dried chillies have enjoyed a ready market in Southeast Asia, Japan, the USA, etc., for many years now.

Our company currently handles large chillies with stem, medium-sized chillies with stem, and medium-sized chillies without stem.

Inquiries and orders welcomed.

China National Metals & Minerals Imp. & Exp. Corp., Shanxi Branch

We can supply your needs!



Established in 1957, our corporation handles import and export business and general trade, acts as agent or sole agent, and engages in joint ventures, processing according to supplied designs or samples, processing of supplied materials, compensation trade, etc.

Our business includes: metallic and non-metallic mineral products, fire-resistant materials, coke, raw materials for ceramics, insulating materials, metal products, building materials, steel products, non-ferrous metals, cement, ferroalloys, iron ore, hardware, stone products, stone carvings, etc.

Our major exports include: alumina, ferrosilicon, metal silicon, steel pipes, coke, graphite, marble, gypsum, silicon carbide, iron nails, iron wire, copper products, iron ore, rare earths, etc.

6 Xinjian Road, Taiyuan, Shanxi, China
Cable: "MINMETALSHS" TAIYUAN
Tel: 440280 441116 441266
Telex: 282033 MINSX CN
Fax: 0351-440281

FURFURYL ALCOHOL

(Furancarbinol; Furfuralcohol)

Properties:
Toxic. Turns brown or deep-red when exposed to sunlight and air. Freely miscible with many organic solvents such as ethyl alcohol, ether, acetone, ethyl acetate, etc. Insoluble in hydrocarbon group such as paraffin, etc. Gravity 1.1296 (at 20°C), melting point −14.63°C, boiling point 170°C.

Uses:
This organic chemical with wide uses can be used as a selective organic solvent, also as a raw material for manufacture of pharmaceuticals, insecticides, plastics, rubber, chemicals and munitions.

FURFURYL ALCOHOL
中国化工进出口公司山西省分公司

China National Chemicals Imp. & Exp. Corp., Shanxi Branch

Address: No. 6, Xinjian Road, Taiyuan, China Tel: 442046 442006 442016 442691
Telex: 28027 SXCCO CN Cable: CHEMICALS TAIYUAN Fax: 0351-442701

Shanxi International Advertising Corporation

Congratulations on
the ninth anniversary of the publication of
CHINA TOURISM

Foreign Trade Building, 6 Xinjian Road, Taiyuan, China
Tel: 442721 . 225594
Cable: 1741 Taiyuan

SHANXI NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

DYNAMO
SHELLED WALNUTS
Walnut

Business Scope

Native Produce: Walnuts, walnut kernels, canned walnut kernels and other canned foods, honey and its products, bitter apricot kernels, fungi, dates and processed date products, dehydrated vegetables, dried day lilies, salted vegetables, dried chilli, chilli powder, black fungi, black and white melon seeds, flax cakes, cottonseed cakes, bean cakes, rapeseed cakes, peas, Chinese sorghum, and animal fodder of all types, fireworks and firecrackers, spices and seasonings, iron cauldrons, and other mountain produce.
Animal By-Products: Fur and leather garments, fur and leather products, suede bedspreads, cushions, goatskin, other skins, pig and sheep casings, bristle brushes, sheep's wool, tail hairs of all types, and carpets.
Light Industrial Products: Work gloves, gloves for everyday use, bags and trunks, shoes, and wallets. We also import and export timber and wood products, as well as materials for interior decoration.

Address: 11, North Tao Yuan Road,
Taiyuan, Shanxi, China
Tel: Taiyuan 442285 443572
440357 440274
Fax: 86-0351-440057
Telex: 28022 SNAC CN
Cable: Taiyuan 3964

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"Golden Butterfly" Brand Yarn-Dyed Shirting

Superior quality, excellent variety, novel designs and bright colours. This famous high-quality product is created by our corporation.

SHTEX

SHANGHAI TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: 27 Zhongshan Road
(E. 1), Shanghai, China
Tel: 218400
Cable: "TEXTILE" Shanghai or
"4444" Shanghai
Telex: 33055 SHTEX CN
Fax: (021) 218467, (021) 291267

SHANGHAI HANDKERCHIEFS IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION

130 CHANG SHOU LU, SHANGHAI, CHINA
TEL: 533638 CABLE: HANCHIEF SHANGHAI
TELEX: 33109 HANEX CN FAX: 0086-021-553560

SHANGHAI GARDEN TOOLS

- Great Variety
- Top Quality
- Reasonable Price
- Prompt Delivery

SMIEC

SHANGHAI MACHINERY IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

27, ZHONGSHAN ROAD E. 1,
SHANGHAI, CHINA
CABLE: "SMIEC" OR
"MACHIMPEX" SHANGHAI
TELEX: 33066 SHCMC CN
FAX: 86-021-290603
(Attn: Dai Senyuan)

JH

Xiamen Jiahua Import And Export Trading Co., Ltd.

Asparagus
MUSHROOMS
CHAMPIGNONS

Narcissus BRAND

Address: Flat A, 16/F, Seaside Bldg., Lujiangdao St., Xiamen, China
Tel: 20594 (General Manager) 20593 (Business Dept.)
33474 (Office) 35200 (Finance Dept.)
Cable: '0943' XIAMEN or 'JIAHUACO' XIAMEN
Telex: 93168 JHTFD CN
Fax: 0592-20590

快乐 Happiness

"Happiness" Brand Towelling Coverlets

"Happiness" is one of the famous brand names for our towelling coverlets, noted for novel patterns, bright colour, excellent quality and unique style, and well received both at home and overseas. Sizes available are 60"×80", 70"×90", 90"×106" and 80"×90". Each is packed in a polybag and 20 or 25 are packed in one carton.

HOMTEX

Shanghai Home Textiles Import & Export Corporation
18, Zhongshan Road E. 1, Shanghai, China
Cable: "HOMETEX" SHANGHAI Telex: 33329 HOMEX CN
Tel: 218500 Fax: 0086-21-290096

Business Department of Shanghai Silk Imp. & Exp. Corp.

SHANGHAI SILK IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION SALES DEPARTMENT

We are producers of high-quality, fashionable silk garments, ties, scarves, handkerchiefs, silk-embroidered garments, etc., which are guaranteed to give full satisfaction.

SHANGHAI SILK

Address: 588 Nanjing Road E., Shanghai, China
Tel: 215770×199

Km

HUBEI PROVINCIAL KNITWEARS AND MANUFACTURED GOODS I/E CORP.

Hubei Provincial Knitwears and Manufactured Goods I/E Corporation officially commenced business activities on January 1 1989. We are pleased to take the opportunity of announcing this, and welcome business talks with all countries and regions concerning the import and export of knitwear products.

ADDRESS: 16/F., HUBEI JINMAO BUILDING,
8, NORTH JIANGHAN ROAD, WUHAN, CHINA
TEL: 562109 561896 562821-2758
CABLE: KNITMANU/0329 (inside China)
TELEX: 40259 HBNTC CN FAX: 564768

廣東糧油
GUANGDONG CEREALS & OILS

TUNG OIL

- Quick-drying,
- Solidifies in no time
- Waterproof
- Wide range of applications

廣東省糧油進出口公司
GUANGDONG CEREALS & OILS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP
廣州市僑光路2號三樓　2Qiaoguang Road, Guangzhou,China.
電傳：44389 CEOIL CN　CABLE ADDRESS："CNCOFC" GUANGZHOU
電報掛號："CNCOFC"廣州　電話：341401　傳眞：020-341345.
TELEX：44389 CEOIL CN　TEL：341401　FAX：020-341345

Congratulations on the 9th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

Quick-frozen
PRAWNS
NET WT 2 公斤
HEADLESS
CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
中国粮油食品进出口公司
COFCO
26-30

QUICK-FROZEN PRAWNS

The 'Golden Triangle' of southern Fujian Province in the subtropics has a long coastline and many pollution-free estuaries teeming with marine produce.

The recent development of the fishing industry here has brought with it technological advances in pisciculture and freezing. Our exports of live aquatic produce and quick-frozen prawns and crabs are increasingly steadily.

XIAMEN SEZ FOREIGN TRADE (GROUP)
CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMP. & EXP. CO.
Foreign Trade Building, 38 Hai Hou Road, Xiamen, China
Tel: 24419, 24429, 24149, 24170, 23012
Cable: "XMIETSCO" or "6651" Xiamen
Telex: 93013 FTCOF CN Fax: 0592-32802 XIAMEN

BEAUTIFUL SNAKESKIN AND SNAKESKIN PRODUCTS

Our company is mainly engaged in exporting all kinds of raw, semi-tanned, bleached, dyed and polished snakeskin, as well as belts, purses, wallets, briefcases, shoes, etc., made of snakeskin.

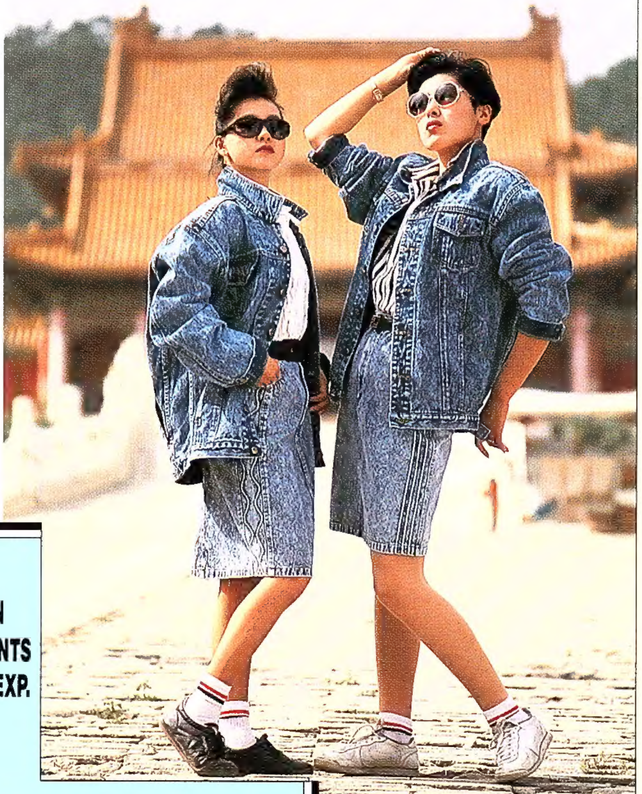
We also produce ladies' shoes in both snakeskin and cowhide which are stylish and comfortable to wear.

Orders, including for processing according to buyers' materials and designs, are most welcome.

CHINA JIANGSU NATIVE PRODUCE
IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORP.
50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China Tel: 625145
Cable: CHINAPROCO NANJING Telex: 34108 NPANJ CN
Fax: 025 403613

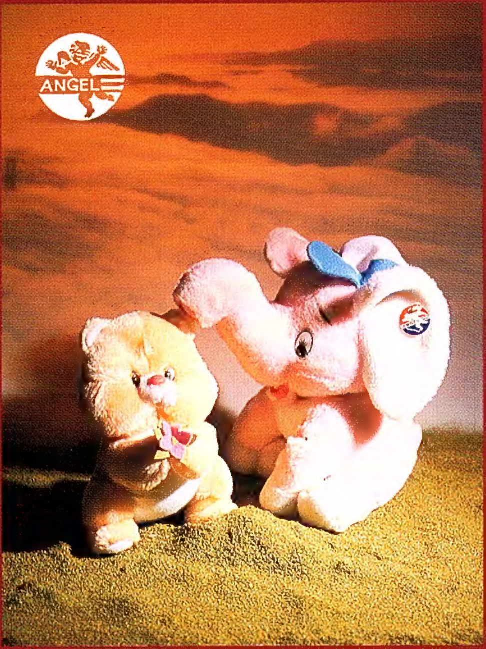
Condoms

Guangdong Chemicals Import & Export Corporation
61, Yan Jiang Xilu, Guangzhou, China
P. O. Box No. 21
Tel.: 885531
Cable Address: 'SINOCHEMIC' GUANGZHOU
Telex: 44376 HAGON CN GUANGZHOU
Fax: 861731



TIANJIN GARMENTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

164 Jiefang Road, Tianjin, China
Tel: 316324, 751191
Telex: 23153 TJGAR CN
Contact Persons: Yu Jin Ling,
Meng Tong



China Jiangsu Light Industrial Products I/E (Group) Corp. (formerly called China National Light Industrial Products I/E Corporation, Jiangsu Branch) is one of the major exporters of light industrial goods in China. Apart from the import and export of various light industrial products, the corporation also undertakes the processing of supplied materials, compensation trade, joint ventures, co-production and domestic trade, etc.

CHINA JIANGSU
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORP.
1 Bai Xia Road, Nanjing, China
Cable Address: "INDUSTRY" NANJING
Telex: 34105 34171 34172 34173 INDNK CN, 342233 JASUL CN
Fax: 025-407398

JASUL

The Naval Auxiliary Ship Design Division of the Marine Design and Research Institute of China is mainly involved in designing landing craft, minesweepers, supply boats, training vessels and other auxiliary craft, patrol boats, as well as hoist and cable fittings for ships.

We are seeking to build up technology exchange and establish cooperative links with other countries and regions. Your enquiries are welcomed.

Naval Auxiliary Ship Design Division of
Marine Design & Research Institute of China
346 Sichuan Zhong Road, Shanghai, China
Tel: 215044
Fax: (8621) 290929

Glazed Tiles
From Guangdong

GUANGDONG METALS & MINERALS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
774 Dongfeng Road (East), Guangzhou, China
Tel: 78205, 76798
Cable Address: "MINMETALS" Guangzhou
Telex: 44377 WUJIN CN
Fax: (86) 20-752205

CARBON BLACK FOR RUBBER

Name of product: Carbon black N220, N330, etc.

Specifications:

No.	Programme	N220	N330
1.	Iodine absorption number (mg/g)	121±9	88±7
2.	Ctab area (m^2/g)	111±9	88±7
3.	Dbp absorption number (cm^2/g)	1.1±0.10	1.05±0.10
4.	pH	7.0-9.5	7.0-9.5
5.	Heat loss (percent ≤)	2.5	2.5
6.	Ash content (percent ≤)	0.5	0.5
7.	100 sieve residue (percent ≤)	0.02	0.02
8.	Impurity (20 sieve)	no	no
9.	Breaking strength (Mpa ≤)	28.4	26.5
10.	Rate of breaking stretch (percent ≤)	530	500
11.	300 percent stretch strength (Mpa)	12.7-15.2	12.7-15.2

ANHUI CHEMICALS IMPORT
& EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: Import & Export Building,
Jinzhai Road, Hefei, China
Tel: 32605, 32603
Cable: SINOCHEM HEFEI
Telex: 90035 ABIEC CN
Fax: 0551-31975

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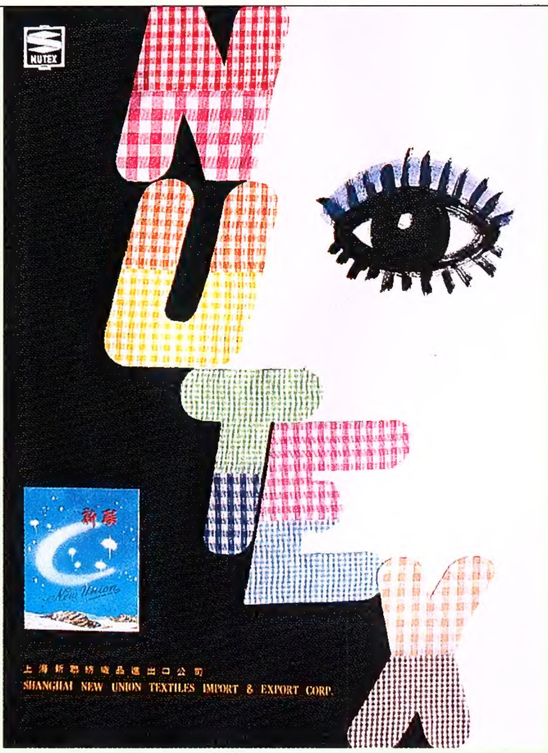

NUTEX
NUTEX
新聯
New Union
上海新聯紡織品進出口公司
SHANGHAI NEW UNION TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.

SHANGHAI NEW UNION TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 1341 Yu Yuan Road, Shanghai, China
Cable: "NUTEX" SHANGHAI or 1884 SHANGHAI
Tel: 511532 (6 lines)
Telex: 33370 NUTEX CN Fax: 86-21-510701

JCOF

CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS FROM JIANGSU

Business handled: Frozen pork and frozen pork offal & by-products, frozen rabbit, live cattle, meat products, frozen poultry, wild fowl and game, egg products, aquatic products, fresh fruits, confectionery, preserved fruits, salted vegetables, fresh vegetables, quick-frozen vegetables, wines and liquors, condiments, canned foods, cereals, oils and others. Gold Plum brand pork floss, Zhenjiang vinegar and sesameseed oil, Zhenjiang pickled vegetables, and Maling brand arbutus in syrup were awarded the "Gold Prize" by the Comité International d'Action Gastronomique et Touristique of France.

China Jiangsu Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs I/E (Group) Corp.
50 Zhonghua Rd., Nanjing, China
Cable Address: CEROILFOOD NANJING Tel: 625738, 625739
Telex: 34115 COFNJ CN Fax: 025-403906
General Manager: Zhang Shuikun
Deputy General Managers: Yuan Genfu, He Juying, Yu Guozhong, Wang Yezhong

Shandong Garments Import & Export Corp.

BUSINESSES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE WELCOME TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THE FORM OF JOINT VENTURES, COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES OR AGENCY REPRESENTATION. PROCESSING OF IMPORTED SAMPLES AND SUPPLIED MATERIALS. WE'LL DO OUR VERY BEST TO SERVE YOU.

SCOPE OF BUSINESS:
MEN'S, LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S WEAR, INCLUDING LADIES' EMBROIDERED BLOUSES AND BEACH WEAR OF COTTON, WOOL, LINEN, SYNTHETIC FIBRE AND BLENDED FABRICS.

Address: 15 Henan Road,
Qingdao, China
Tel: 285609
Cable: GARMENTS QINGDAO
Telex: 32254 GARQD CN

Zhejiang Light Industrial Products Imp. & Exp. Corp.
223, Tiyuchang Road, Hangzhou, China
Tel: 558961
Cable: "INDUSTRY" HANGZHOU
Telex: 35018 INTLX CN
Fax: 0571-556213

Zhejiang Tents

Lightweight, waterproof, well-ventilated and available in bright colours.
Orders welcomed.

The Shanghai Light Industrial Products Corporation Is At Your Service

Over thirty years, Shanghai Light Industrial Products Import & Export Corporation has built itself into an eminent corporation. Its solid reputation is built on flexible trade arrangements, punctual deliveries and highly competitive prices. Over 6,000 companies from 143 countries and regions have recognised our corporation's abilities and established business relations with us. Thus, our annual export amount has reached several hundred million US dollars.

Shanghai, as the foreign trade centre in China, is making use of its established infrastructure to further develop economic relations with businessmen all over the world. We accept orders against samples and designs. Different forms of trade can be arranged, such as compensation trade, joint ventures and co-production projects.

Enquiries and orders are welcome.

SHANGHAI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

209 Yuanmingyuan Road, Shanghai, China
Cable Address: "INDUSTRY" Shanghai
Telex: 33054 INDUS CN Fax: 86-21-290632

Hubei Provincial Native Produce Import & Export Corporation

Address: 8 Jiang Han Road N., Wuhan, China
Cable: "PROWUHAN" HANKOU
Telex: 40113 HBNPC CN
Tel: 565102, 562821-2606
Fax: 027-564476

"CHINESE TRUMPET CREEPER" POLYESTER-COTTON YARN AND FABRICS

The pure polyester yarn, Trueran yarn and fabrics handled by our corporation are made from fine quality polyester fibre and choice raw cotton. Pure polyester yarn is supplied in 2-ply, 3-ply and 4-ply in hanks or on cones. Blends of Trueran yarn and cloth are available in many different ratios. Carded or combed T/C yarn is supplied in single or 2-ply. Also available is waxed yarn on cones.

T/C cloth comes in various categories including grey, white, dyed, printed, yarn-dyed, etc. Available are varieties of sheeting, shirting, lawn, poplin, voile, seersucker, Oxford, tussore, jean, drill, dobby, sateen and corduroy, etc.

The printed, dyed and yarn-dyed Trueran fabrics present attractive designs, colour brilliancy and a large selection of shades, thus creating an elegant style. With resin, permanent press, water-repellent and silky finish, the fabrics feel crisp, glossy, soft and comfortable. They have won great popularity among customers and are best sellers all over the world. Requests for samples and quotations are welcome.

ZHEJIANG TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION,
102 Fengqi Road, Hangzhou, China
Cable: TEXTILES HANGZHOU Tel: 557532
Telex: 35026 TEX CN Fax: 554046 551347

GUANGDONG ARTS & CRAFTS IMP. & EXP. CORP. (GROUP)
2, Qiao Guang Road, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 334420 Cable: ARTCANTON/1772
Telex: 44379 KCACB CN Fax: 343614

A wide variety of products demonstrating excellent craftsmanship...

Add colour to your lifestyle and zest to your business!

We welcome business talks and cooperation.

Congratulations on the 9th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

"Tiantan Candles" from Beijing

Made from top-quality materials, our products are beautifully designed, odourless and drip-free. We can offer candles of all shapes and sizes for illumination, birthday celebrations and other occasions.

Enquiries and orders welcomed.

Beijing Native Produce Import & Export Corporation
General Manager: Cao Shunxing
Address: No. 56 Xi Jiao Min Xiang, Beijing, China
Postal Code: 100031 Tel: 667255
Cable: TUHSUBRAN BEIJING
Telex: 22317 TSPB CN Fax: 656518

天坛牌
TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

Yunnan Tianqi (Tienchi) & Its Products
A Natural Tonic

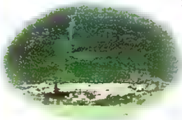
田七鸡精
ESSENCE OF CHICKEN
CHICKEN
Steamed
TIENCHI

Tianqi (Tienchi), also known as Sanqi, is one of the best varieties of ginseng and is specially produced in Yunnan. Its scientific composition is nourishing and it has a beneficial effect in building up vital energy, promoting blood circulation and reducing cholesterol. It is also an ideal natural tonic for the prevention of disease in the blood vessels.

China National Medicines & Health Products Imp. & Exp. Corporation, Yunnan Branch
576 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China
Tel: 36100 Cable: PROEXCORP KUNMING Telex: 64026 YNNPC CN Fax: 36378

茶花牌
CAMELLIA BRAND

Zhejiang Animal By-Products I/E Corp.



Expanding constantly, with a current total of ten import and export departments, our corporation now boasts over 1,300 clients in more than eighty countries and regions worldwide.

Principal exports include Zhejiang white lambskin with short wave-like hair, downless face and resilient texture, and silk-covered down quilts, garments and sleeping bags.

Also exported in large amounts is white Angora rabbit hair, famous for its length and silkiness; fur garments fashioned from mink, fox, weasel, racoon, marmot, etc.

We welcome your inquiries and your orders.

Let's Grow Together!

80 Ti Yu Chang Road, Hangzhou, China
Cable: ZJABPIEB HANGZHOU

Tel: 0571-550581, 550197 Telex: 35022 TTTPB CN
Fax. 0571-556457, 0571-571939

ZHEJIANG KNITWEAR & HOME TEXTILES I/E CORP.

Main Exports

Vests, T-shirts, cotton interlock singlets and trousers, sport shirts;

Men's and women's woollen sweaters, Angora sweaters, acrylic sweaters and woollen gloves of all types;

Cotton face towels, face cloths, bath towels, sheets, pillowcases, terry tea towels, handkerchiefs, bath mats, etc.

Business negotiations and orders welcomed.

Foreign Economic Relations & Trade Bldg.,
No. 102 Fengqi Road, Hangzhou, China
Cable: TEXTILES HANGZHOU
Tel: 557532
Telex: 35044 KNITW CN Fax: 554400

BUTTERFLY BRAND PURE BRISTLE
BRUSHES FROM JIANGSU

CHINA JIANGSU ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORPORATION

ADDRESS: 50, ZHONG HUA ROAD, NANJING, CHINA
TEL: 625138 CABLE: BYPRODUCTS NANJING
TELEX: 34148 ABPNJ CN FAX: 025-401624

'FLYING WHEEL' BRAND CANNED PEANUTS (Roasted)

Crunchy and delicious!

Flying Wheel
HONEY PEANUTS
ROASTED
SANFOD
PEANUTS

SALTED: 1) 227 g × 48 tins per. carton
2) 185 g × 48 tins per carton
SWEET: HONEY PEANUTS (SANFOD BRAND)
185 g × 48 tins per carton

SHANDONG FOODSTUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

70 Zhongshan Road, Qingdao, China
Cable: FOODSTUFFS Qingdao
Tel: (0532) 279824
Fax: (0532) 270817
Telex: 32122 FODQD CN

Shandong Corn-Husk Baskets

Shandong corn-husk baskets, hand-made from selected materials, have long been popular with housewives and travellers.

Shandong corn husks are white, neat in texture, with long, soft fibres, good tensile strength, diathermaneity and heat radiation. Baskets made of this material are ideal food containers for daily use.

We have a rich assortment of styles for your choice.

CHINA NATIONAL ARTS & CRAFTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP., SHANDONG BRANCH

14 BAODING ROAD, QINGDAO, CHINA
TEL: 225730, 225760
CABLE: "STRAWART" QINGDAO
TELEX: 32225 ARTQD CN

MOUNT ELEPHANT BRAND
Guangxi Rice Wine
The best of the best!
COF
廣西
三蒸米酒
KWANGXI SANCHENG RICE WINE
特質
廣西米酒
SPECIAL KWANGSI RICE WINE

GUANGXI CEREALS OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: Qixing Road, Nanning, China
Tel: 27505 Fax: 29995
Telex: 48102 FOODS CN
Cable: "CEROILFOOD" NANNING

Congratulations on the 9th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

SHANGHAI INSTRUMENTATION & ELECTRONICS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
68 Guizhou Road, Shanghai, China Tel: 229171
Telex: 33261 SIEC CN Cable: SIECO Shanghai Fax: 207478

WE ARE READY TO COOPERATE WIDELY WITH YOU

FLUORSPAR IN LUMPS

Used in iron fusing,
chemistry, ceramics,
glass and aluminium fusing, etc.

HENAN METALS & MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.
No. 6 Northern Section, Dongsan Street, Nangang Road, Zhengzhou, China
Tel: 33112, 33361, 34648, 34998
Cable: 'MINMETALS' Zhengzhou
Telex: 46031 HZMEM CN Fax: (0371) 55334

China National Medicines & Health Products I/E Corp., Wuhan Branch

Our company congratulates CHINA TOURISM on its ninth anniversary, and wishes both it and its readers all the best for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity of introducing our products:

* * * *

"White Cloud" brand medical dressings
"Tie Niao" brand medical instruments
"Caidie" brand chemical dyestuffs
"Queling" brand Chinese and Western drugs

* * * *

We also import chemical substances for medical purposes, medicines, crude drugs, rubber and plastic products, etc., and handle manufacturing to supplied samples.

No. 220-1 Hang Kong Road, Wuhan, China
Tel: 563142, 565701
Cable: 1171 HANKOU
Telex: 40163 WHCMC CN

COFCO

CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Scope of business:

Cereals, beans and peas, animal fats, feedstuffs, edible vegetable oils and vegetable oils for industrial use (including tung oil), oil seeds, bean cakes, salt, sugar, live poultry, livestock, frozen meat, meat products, eggs, egg products, fruits, dried and preserved fruits, vegetables, quick-frozen vegetables, wild vegetables, salted and preserved vegetables, aquatic and marine products, canned goods, mushrooms in brine, confectionery and biscuits, sugar products, wines, liquors and beer, soft drinks, dairy products, rice and flour products, peanut products, condiments, quick-frozen snacks, etc.

82 Dong'anmen Street,
Beijing, China
Tel: 555180, 558831
Cable: "CEROILFOOD"
Beijing
Telex: 22281 CEROF CN
22111 CEROF CN
Fax: 551610

CHINA NATIONAL TEXTILES IMP. & EXP. CORP. ANHUI BRANCH

194 Jinzhai Road,
Hefei, Anhui, China
Tel: 31421, 31168
Cable: 0756
Telex: 90015 AHTEX CN
Fax: 0551-32002, 32380

Windmill
MADE IN CHINA FABRIQUE EN CHINE

"WINDMILL" GARMENTS FROM ANHUI

Our exports include clothing for all seasons for men, women and children in dyed and printed, flannel, corduroy and blended fabrics.

Menswear: Long, medium and short overcoats, cotton quilted coats, suits, Chinese tunics, waistcoats, jackets, vests, long and short-sleeved shirts, uniform shirts, embroidered shirts, shorts, pyjamas, morning gowns, underwear and overalls.

Ladieswear: Long, medium and short overcoats, cotton quilted coats, etc.

HYDROQUINONE

BEST QUALITY
BEST SELLER

Liaoning Chemicals Import & Export Corporation,
Address: 139 Stalin Road, Dalian, China
Cable: SINOCHEMIR DALIAN Telex: 86152 CHEMD CN

Woollen, Acrylic and Blended Fabric Knitwear from Liaoning

"Ilex", "Bing Hua". "Goldencup", "Snow-Grassland" and "Hot Spring" brand hand-made and machine-made woollen sweaters, acrylic sweaters, woollen and acrylic blended sweaters, etc. exported from Liaoning are known for their careful knitting, durability and subtle choice of colours. They are light, soft and warm and available in the latest fashions. Orders welcome.

CHINA NATIONAL TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION, LIAONING BRANCH
No. 3 Yimin Street, Dalian, China
Tel: 239712
Cable: "CHINATEX"
Telex: 86154 LDTEX CN
Fax: 0411-239615

CHINA SILK GARMENTS

"Silk does for the body what diamonds do for the hand"

China National Silk Imp. & Exp. Corporation
82 Dong An Men St
Beijing, China
Telex: 22652 CSCBJ CN
Cable: CHINASILK BEIJING
Tel: 5123219 5123226

China Silk Garments Imp. & Exp. Corp.
A subsidiary of China National Silk Import & Export Corporation
82 Dong An Men St.
Beijing, China
Telex: 210081 CSMIC CN
22652 CSCBJ CN
Tel: 555214

Congratulations on the 9th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

CHINA JIANGSU MACHINERY IMP. & EXP. (GROUP) CORP.

Business Scope: Export of all kinds of machinery, electronics, electric appliances, instruments and meters, hand tools, agricultural implements, complete sets of production equipment; import and export of "technical know-how"; joint ventures, co-production, compensation trade, as well as processing according to customers' drawings and samples; consulting business on import and export.

Address: 50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China
Cable: 'MACHIMPEX' Nanjing
Telex: 34111 JMCNJ CN
Tel: 025-625606 Fax: 025-303450

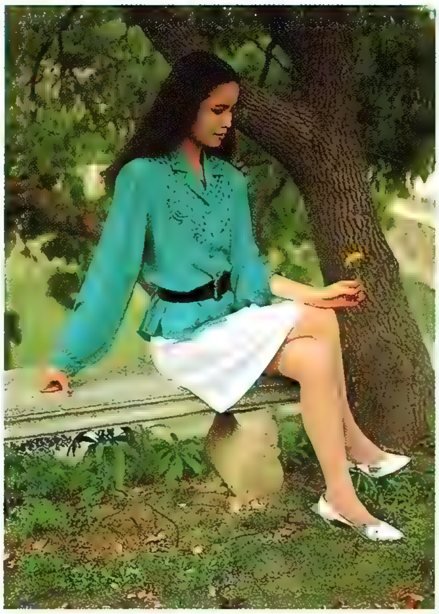
Shanghai Toys

Our products include electronic, motor-driven, inertial, musical, spring and inflated toys, and toys made from all sorts of materials such as plastic, enamel, wood, paper, straw, glass and plush. We also handle children's tricycles.

Processing with supplied materials and designs, co-production and joint marketing are welcomed.

Shanghai Toys Import & Export Corporation
165 Pu'an Road, Shanghai, China
Cable: "CHINATOYS" SHANGHAI
Telex: 33037 TOYS CN
Tel: 262640
Fax: 260349, 203353

SHANGHAI EMBROIDERED GARMENTS



SHANGHAI ARTS & CRAFTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

16, Zhong Shan Dong Yi Lu, Shanghai, China
Tel: 212100 Cable: "ARTSCRAFTS" Shanghai
Telex: 33053-ARTEX CN Fax: 021-291871

"TEMPLE OF HEAVEN" ESSENTIAL BALM

An ever-ready necessity for home and travel
Made from valuable Chinese medicinal herbs
Soothing and refreshing
In tins of 19g, 10g or 3.5g
Look for the three-tiered roof of the Temple of Heaven on the box

SHANGHAI MEDICINES & HEALTH PRODUCTS I/E CORP.
27 Zhongshan Road (E. 1),
Shanghai, China
Tel: 290161
Cable: "MEHECOS" Shanghai
Telex: 33556 MHIEC CN
Fax: 291609

清涼油
TEMPLE OF HEAVEN
天壇
业公司出品

China Jiangsu Garments Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corp.

185 Zhujiang Road, Nanjing, China
Tel: 714688-215, 712185
Fax: (025)-714707 (025)-714741
Telex: 34073 GMTNJ CN, 342263 GMTNJ CN.
34113 GMTNJ CN
Cable: GARMENTS NANJING

JIANGSU PURE SILK UNDERWEAR

"Begonia" pure silk underwear is a new line characterized by lightness and smoothness and by its properties of moisture absorption and ventilation. Our products, fashionable in style, are of exquisite workmanship and comfortable to wear. Orders and processing according to your samples are welcome!

Begonia 海棠花
100%
PURE SILK
MADE IN JIANGSU CHINA HAND EMBROIDERED

CHINA NATIONAL SILK I/E CORP.
JIANGSU BRANCH

Address: 50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China
Telex: 34107 SLKNK CN
Cable: CHISICORP NANJING
Tel: 625745
Fax: 627602

SMEC Shanghai Machinery & Equipment Imp. & Exp. Corp.

Shanghai Machinery & Equipment Imp. & Exp. Corp. mainly handles the export of products made by the factories and enterprises under the Ministry of Machine Building & Electronic Industry of the People's Republic of China. It also handles the import of technical equipment, special-purpose materials and components. SMEC is involved in the export of machine tools, forging and pressing equipment, heavy-duty machinery, metallurgical machinery, petroleum and chemical machinery, wood-working machine tools, printing machinery, plastic machinery, engineering machinery, hoisting and transporting facilities, electric motors, wires and cables, instruments and meters, electrical products, household electric appliances, bearings, measuring and cutting tools, hand tools, agricultural machinery, diesel engines, etc. The export of complete sets of equipment includes large, medium and small scale hydroelectric and thermoelectric power stations, harbour and airport facilities, electrical systems for high buildings as well as other equipment and facilities.

SMEC also adopts flexible transaction procedures, including tender, processing with supplied materials, manufacturing to buyer's samples, assembling with supplied components, compensation trade, technical imports and joint ventures and offers after-sale technical service for customers. Meanwhile, it accepts exhibition business at home and abroad.

SMEC is always ready to co-operate with you for mutual benefit and progress.

Address: 400 Xikang Road, Shanghai, China Tel: 552540
Cable: EQUIMPEX SHANGHAI Telex: 33028 SCMEC CN
Fax: 86-21-269616

We are the sole agent for the following products from Jiangsu:

Jersey pyjamas, T-shirts, briefs, vests, printed & embroidered piqué polo shirts, sportswear, baby suits, gloves, socks;

Interlock, brushed & unbrushed fleecy fabrics in cotton, acrylic, cotton & spun rayon blends and cotton & polyester blends;

Woollen, angora, acrylic and blended sweaters; hand-knitted or hand-crocheted gloves, scarves and caps in various designs, stitchings, gauges and different yarn compositions;

Home textiles: sheets, bed covers, quilt covers, pillowcases, decorative cloths & products; face towels, bath towels, face cloths, tea towels, aprons, handkerchiefs, blankets in cotton, wool, acrylic and blended fabrics, baby blankets; tablecloths, napkins, baby napkins, threads, belts, etc.

For details of commodities, please contact Mr. Shi Zhi Wei.

You Name It,
We'll Have It

KNIT

CHINA JIANGSU KNITWEAR & HOME TEXTILES IMP./EXP. (GROUP) CORP.

50 Zhong Hua Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China
Cable: KNITEX NANJING
Telex: 34047 KNIT CN
Fax: 8625-406345 NANJING CHINA

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TIANJIN METALS & MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

237 Heping Street, Tianjin, China
Tel: 70-3073
Cable: "MINMETALS" TIANJIN
Telex: 23224, 23237, 23378 TJMET CN
Fax: (86)22-701264

長青牌
TRADE MARK
EVERGREEN BRAND

Tianjin Dried Fruits

Tianjin Native Produce Import & Export Corporation
Address: 33 Harbin Road, Tianjin, China
Cable: "NCNPC" Tianjin
Telex: 23132 TJNPC CN

Hubei Headwear

Our exports include:
Cotton Headwear: Sunhats, sports caps, folding caps, headgear for travelling, eyeshades, babies' bonnets, etc.
Synthetic Knit Headwear: Ski caps, hunting caps, hoods, etc.
Heavy-Duty Headwear: Woollen caps, warm winter hats and caps, factory headgear, etc.
Straw Hats

We also handle processing of reticulated baseball caps with supplied materials.

Over two hundred varieties for your choice. Orders welcome.

CHINA ARTEX (HOLDINGS) CORPORATION, HUBEI COMPANY
19/F, Hubei Jin Mao Building,
8 Jianghan North Road, Wuhan, China
Tel: 562082 Cable: HPARTEX WUHAN
Telex: 40162 HBEMB CN Fax: 027-563738

Decorative Candles

燈牌
LANTERN BRAND
FAC 510 2C
FAC 510 2E
FAC 510 2F
FAC-510-2D
FAC-510-2A
10" CHRISTMAS CA

Art. No. FAC-510-2 (A.B.C.D.E.F.) Specification 10" TAPER CANDLES WITH SCULPTURE
Packing 2 PCS. × 96 BOXES/CTN

Fujian Provincial Native Produce & Animal By-Products Import & Export Corporation, Xiamen Branch
Address: Foreign Trade Building, 361001 Xiamen, China
Tel: 23831, 23789 Cable: "0960" "PROAMOY"
Telex: 93050 XMNPA CN Fax: (0592) 26523.

CMEC

HUNAN

CHINA NATIONAL MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT IMPORT & EXPORT CORP., HUNAN BRANCH

Address: 38 Yu Tang Street, Changsha, China
Tel: 25729 20244
Cable: "EQUIMPEX" CHANGSHA CHINA
Telex: 98111 XCMEC CN

TMH

TIANJIN MEDICINES & HEALTH PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

Address: 256 Jie Fang Road, Tianjin, China
Tel.: 31-6093
Cable: MEHECO TIANJIN
Telex: 23321 TJMHC CN
Fax: 31-2144

Name of Article	Actions and Indications	Packing
ROYAL JELLY (Oral Liquid)	Nourishing; promotion of physical development and of metabolism.	10 c.c. per vial, 10 vials per box, 60 boxes per carton
High-Strength Royal Jelly		30 capsules per bottle, 6 bottles per box, 30 boxes per carton

10×10ml
蜂乳精
ROYAL JELLY
CHINA NATIONAL MEDICINES & HEALTH PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION TIANJIN BRANCH
蜂乳精

SONG SHU PAI
松樹牌
TRADE MARK
PINE BRAND

TEXTILE
HB

Hebei Textiles Imp. & Exp. Corporation

Address: 8 Jichang Road, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China
Tel: 29770
Telex: 26228 HBTEX CN
Cable: CHINATEX SHIJIAZHUANG
Fax: 27781

Hebei Textiles Products

The corporation's business scope:
Cotton, cotton yarn, cotton cloth, staple rayon cloth, polyester/poplin blended cloth, polyester/cotton blended cloth, blended yarn, mulberry silk and tussah silk, silk, artificial silk, silk embroidery garments, silk garments, silk reproduction products and polyester/man-made-cotton blended cloth

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COFCO HUNAN

CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMP. & EXP. CORP., HUNAN (GROUP) COMPANY

4 Wuyi West Road, Changsha, Hunan, China
Tel: 26043, 47913 Telex: 98105 HFIEC CN
Cable: 5752 or "HUNANFOOD" CHANGSHA

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"Festival" Corduroy

"Festival" (once "Lotus Lantern Dance") brand corduroy is made from 100% choice cotton in wide-wale, medium-wale and pin-wale textures and available plain, dyed or printed. Quality guaranteed.

We welcome clients from all over the world to establish business relations with us.

CHINA NATIONAL TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORP. JIANGSU BRANCH
29 Beijing Road E., Nanjing, China
Tel: 711427 Cable: CHINATEX NANJING
Telex: 34117 34197 TXTNJ CN Fax: 711475

LIAONING NATIVE PRODUCE IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORPORATION

ADDRESS: 139 STALIN ROAD, DALIAN, CHINA
TEL: 234821 CABLE: "PRODAIREN" DALIAN
TELEX: 86155 PRO CN FAX: 0411-235432

Zhejiang Garments Imp. & Exp. Corp. handles export of men's, women's and children's garments and garment accessories made of cotton, wool, linen, chemical fibres and blended fabrics of cotton, silk, hemp and chemical fibres. We also handle import of facilities for production of textiles and garments. Other business includes processing of supplied materials and compensation trade.

With a large number of factories equipped with advanced facilities, our company offers fine workmanship and reliable service. We welcome business negotiations and cooperation.

ZHEJIANG GARMENTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.
No. 146 (A) Nanshan Road,
Hangzhou, China
Tel: 771424
Cable: 0749 HANGZHOU
Fax: 0571-771761
Telex: 351060 351061 GMTHZ CN

We export "Sea Swallow" and other brands of seafoods, "Hong Mei" brand meat, fresh and dried fruits, vegetables, canned foods, sugar, sweets, wine, salt and seasonings, dairy products, etc.

Processing with supplied materials, compensation trade, entrepot trade, agencies and other forms of business are also welcome.

Liaoning Foodstuffs Import & Export Corporation
145 Stalin Road, Dalian, China
Tel: 805363 Cable: '1964' or TALOILFOOD DALIAN
Telex: 86216 86385 DACOF CN Fax: 805713

Henan Dehydrated Vegetables

Sliced onion
Shredded carrot,
carrot in granules
Garlic flakes,
garlic powder
Shredded ginger, etc.

Henan Jute and Blended Fibre Carpets

Brighten up
your room!

CHINA HENAN NATIVE PRODUCE I/E (GROUP) CORPORATION
115, Wenhua Road, Zhengzhou, China
Cable: 5509 ZHENGZHOU Fax: 37446
Telex: 46047 HNTPB CN

CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AT HOME & ABROAD

SUBSIDIARIES (direct under Head Office):

CHINA TIMBER IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22898 TUHSU CN,
22236 TIMEX CN
Tel: (01) 512-4765,
(01) 512-6928
Fax: (01) 512-4788

CHINA TEA IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22899 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4192,
(01) 512-4785
Fax: (01) 512-4775

CHINA FLOWER IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 210204 CFCO CN
Tel: (01) 512-4193,
(01) 512-4678
Fax: (01) 512-4685

CHINA FEEDING STUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 210203 CHFS CN
Tel: (01) 512-4736,
(01) 512-1887

CHINA CARPET IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22896 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4192,
(01) 512-4188,
(01) 512-4183
Fax: (01) 512-4592

CHINA INTERIOR DESIGN & DECORATION MATERIALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 222710 SURDD CN
Tel: (01) 512-4606,
(01) 512-4607
Fax: (01) 512-4606

CHINA (TUHSU) SUPER FOOD IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22892 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4716,
(01) 55-3827

CHINA (TUHSU) FOREST CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22893 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4721

CHINA (TUHSU) SUNDRIES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22891 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 55-5768,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 555
Fax: (01) 512-4324

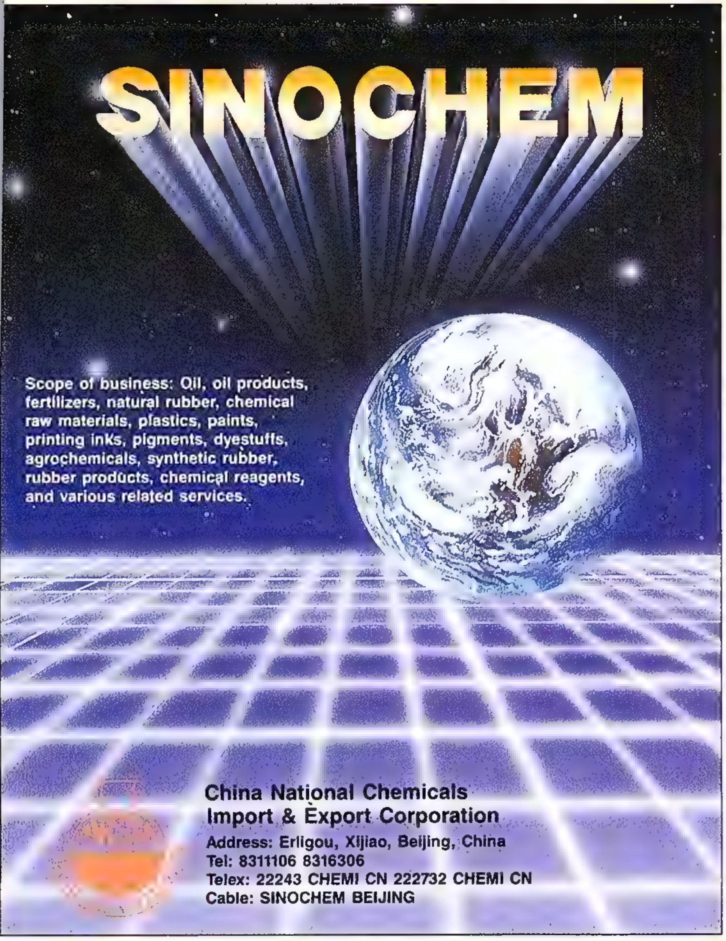
CHINA (TUHSU) FLAVOUR & FRAGRANCES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22893 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4319,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 507
Fax: (01) 512-4319

CHINA (TUHSU) FUR & LEATHER IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22895 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4731,
(01) 55-4727
Fax: (01) 55-4727

CHINA (TUHSU) FEATHER PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22897 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4741,
(01) 55-7545,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 517

CHINA (TUHSU) A.B.C. TRADING COMPANY
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22894 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4726,
(01) 512-4375,
(01) 55-8831
ext. 562 and 572

CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION HEAD OFFICE
Address: 82 Dong'anmen Dajie, Beijing, China
Cable: CHINATUHSU BEIJING 4278 BEIJING
Telex: 22283 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 55-4124, (01) 55-3808
Fax: (01) 512-1626



SINOCHEM

Scope of business: Oil, oil products, fertilizers, natural rubber, chemical raw materials, plastics, paints, printing inks, pigments, dyestuffs, agrochemicals, synthetic rubber, rubber products, chemical reagents, and various related services.

China National Chemicals Import & Export Corporation
Address: Erligou, Xijiao, Beijing, China
Tel: 8311106 8316306
Telex: 22243 CHEMI CN 222732 CHEMI CN
Cable: SINOCHEM BEIJING

Scope of business:
Imports and exports,
including technology importation,
application of foreign capital,
rental enquiries,
border trade.

Yunnan Provincial Import & Export Corporation
8-9/F, 576 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China
Tel: 25485, 27239, 22983, 29746
Cable: YIEPORT KUNMING
Telex: 64039 YPIEC CN
Fax: 0871-34451

EDITORIAL

Where the Rivers Call the Tune

Even as we go to press, latest reports are confirming that a surge of flood waters along the middle reaches of the Yangtse has caused devastation in almost half of Sichuan's 180 counties, with several hundred people feared dead and thousands injured, not to mention the damage to houses, irrigation canals, dykes and — of course — crops. This is the sort of natural calamity that those living along the great river, in the very area covered in our Special Features this month, have had to deal with time and time again throughout history. Such facts help us to understand why the towns and cities beside the Yangtse in Sichuan are built so high above the river, as well as the reason for all those endless flights of steps up from the landing stages.... These are essential safety features, learned the hard way over the centuries.

In CHINA TOURISM no. 85 we gave extensive coverage to the remote and wildly beautiful areas of northern Sichuan, the Jiuzhaigou Valley, Lake Erdaohai and the Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Scenic Area, which had just been opened up to foreign visitors. In this issue we return to examine neighbouring attractions. Adventure is part and parcel of any excursion from Songpan through the Muni Gully to see the Zhaga Waterfall and fascinating Tibetan hamlets, since it takes place on horseback!

With its ancient history and culture, Sichuan boasts stirring tales of warfare, cunning strategems and chivalrous deeds, mainly woven around Liu Bei, ruler of the Kingdom of Shu at the time of the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), and his ministers and generals. But it can also boast a marvellous artistic heritage with offshoots such as its intricate embroidery. Other arts and crafts are based on the luxuriant stands of bamboo which cover significant tracts of countryside south of the Yangtse in an area appropriately known as Zhuhai (Sea of Bamboo).

Another of our articles on Sichuan throws an unusual light on popular superstitions of the past. Our reporter attended last year's festival with a difference in 3,000-year-old Fengdu, reputed to be the haunt of Yinwang, King of Hell, and the denizens of his underworld, a place where the living and the dead would mingle at dusk. A similar theme is also taken up in our Literary Link.

We hope you enjoy this look at an ever-fascinating part of China.

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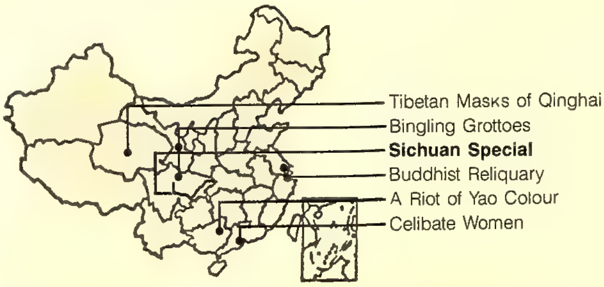

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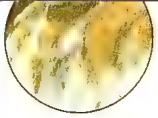
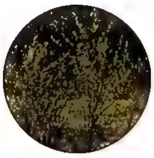
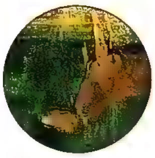
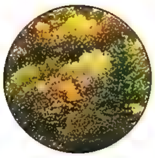


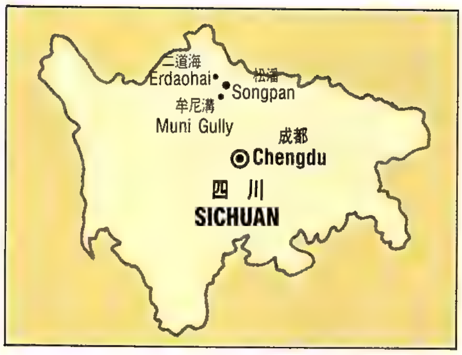


Muni Gully – Wonderland of Nature

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHEN SHUREN



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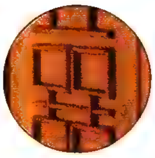
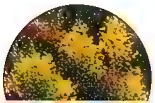
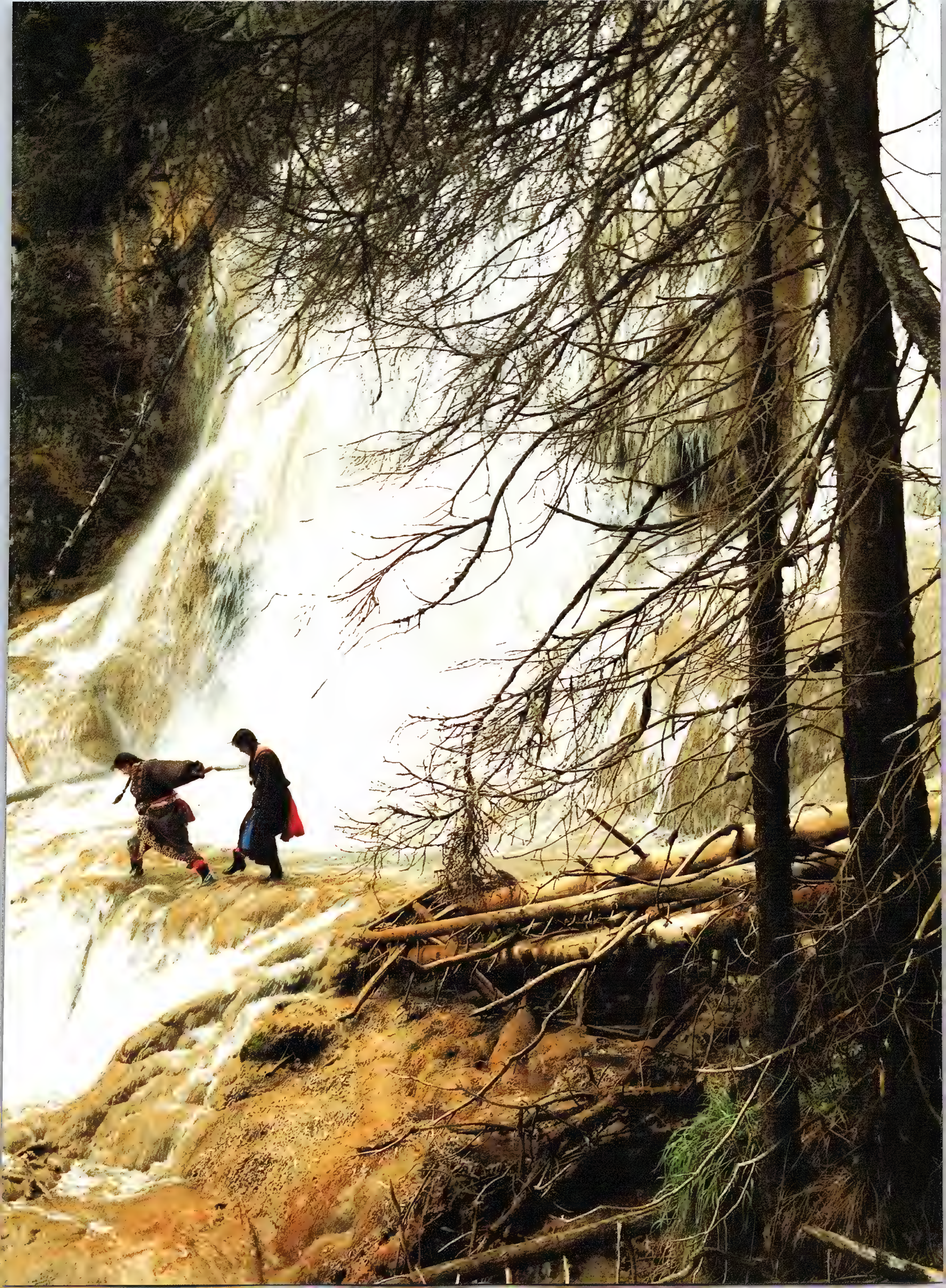
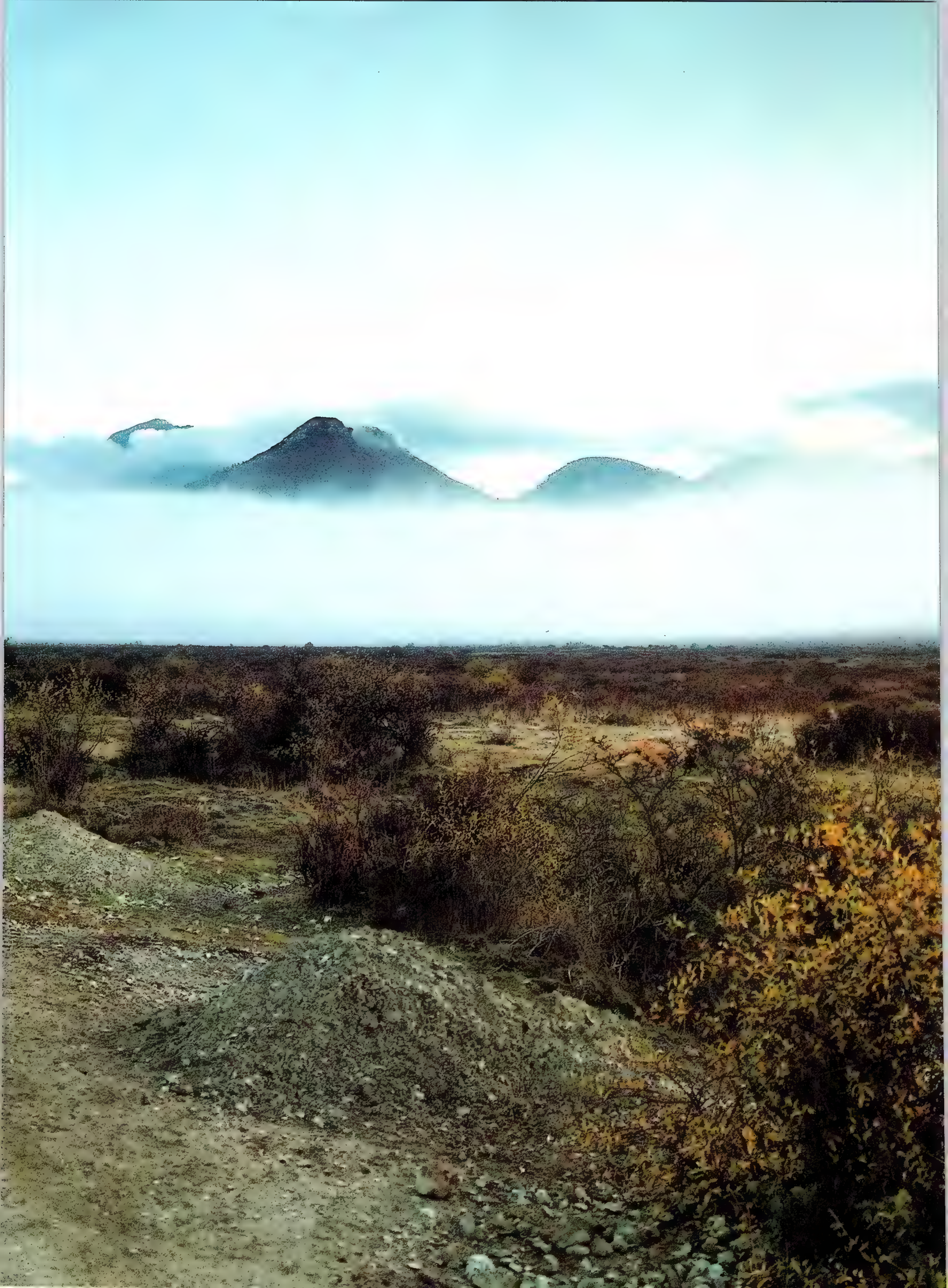


Tibetan girls brave the Zhaga Waterfall







Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, located in the north of Sichuan Province close to Gansu and Qinghai, lies on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at an average of 3,000 metres above sea-level. Compared to other parts of western Sichuan, this area has few rivers and has been less subject to erosion. It has thus retained its grasslands, forests and lakes in all their pristine beauty.

Set in the remote Minshan Mountains which rise to 5,588 metres, Aba was practically unknown to the outside world until the Jiuzhaigou Valley in Nanping County, now a famous beauty spot, was opened up to nature-lovers. As more and more tourists visited the area, other places drew increased attention. One of these is the Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Scenic Area, with its dramatic karst formations, another the Muni Gully.

The latter is the designation given to a large area around a long valley which includes the triple attractions of Zhaga Waterfall, Erdaohai and some Tibetan villages. It is located in Songpan County west of the county town. There are no modern means of transport in such a remote region; in fact, there is not even a proper road. Horses are the only way to get around if visitors are not prepared (or do not have the time) to walk.

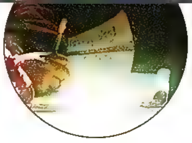
To the Zhaga Waterfall

Songpan is the point of departure for an excursion. Although just a small county town now, this was an important centre of defence for the border areas along the upper reaches of the River Minjiang in the past and it once housed 10,000 families. The Ming-dynasty walls date from 1379. The place is currently home to Tibetans, but also Hui, Qiang and Han Chinese people.

One chilly morning, at an early hour, my friends and I mounted horses arranged for us locally and set off for the Muni Gully accompanied by a guide and a few grooms. We took food, tents and bedding with us. Our companions were all Tibetans. Each of them had a length of black flannel draped over his shoulders; they wore their long hair in plaits, their bronze faces muscular and tough.

At first we progressed along a flat, wide road flanked by pine-covered mountains. It was autumn, and the leaves had taken on hues of gold or red which, against the azure sky, made for a striking sight. Our destination that day was the Zhaga Waterfall thirty kilometres west of Songpan.

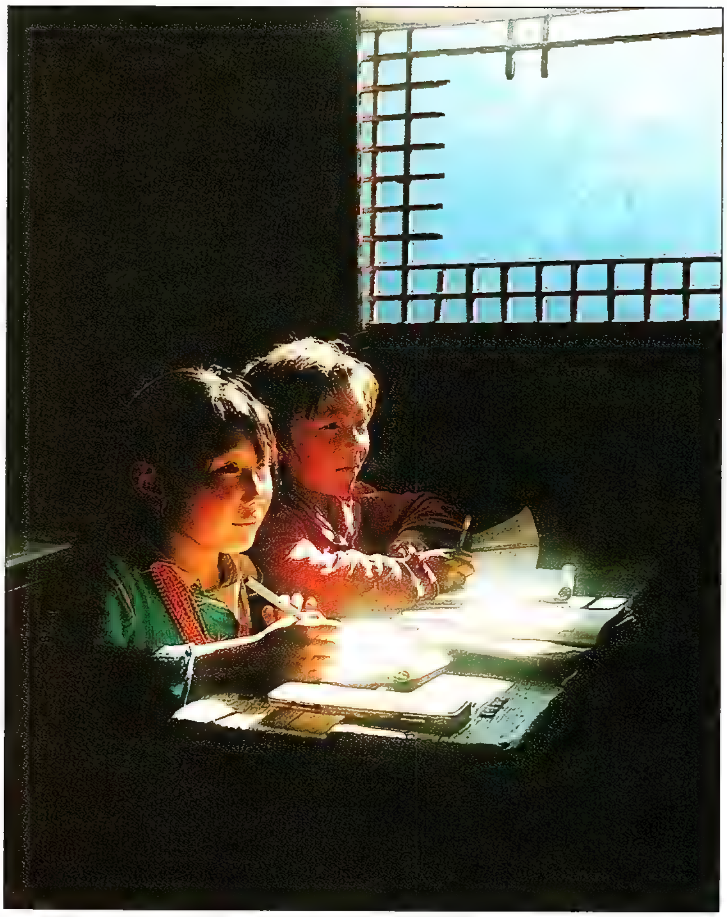
As the light strengthens, mist rises from the valley floor



After riding for about an hour and a half, we came to a lamasery which bears the same name as the county, and took a break there. The buildings seemed to be dreadfully old and decrepit, but the red gate was eye-catching and the murals inside remained vivid. The young monks were rather shy when we first appeared, but gradually opened up. One of them gave us a brief account of the lamasery. According to him, the local people were all pious followers of Tibetan Buddhism, in particular one of the earlier esoteric sects.

Setting off again, our caravan soon entered the Muni Gully, narrower than the valley we had been following, riding

Seen in Tibetan hamlets in the Muni Gully: schoolchildren avid to learn, despite their humble surroundings (1); an elderly monk immersed in devotions (3). Problems with a recalcitrant horse (2).



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between high peaks covered with thick stands of pine, cypress, firs, etc. On the lower slopes grew bushes and shrubs bright with red and yellow foliage. We hardly saw anyone along the way, and only encountered a few horses or yaks from time to time. All around us, the land lay still and peaceful.

As we continued, the gully grew ever narrower, becoming virtually smothered in thick woods. After about three hours we could see we were reaching its end. And then we heard the sound of cascading water and caught sight of the Zhaga Waterfall through the dark-green conifers.

The waterfall was about a hundred metres high and forty to fifty metres wide. It rushed between the trees on the slope above and crashed down vertically in three cataracts, making a noise like thunder. The rocks beneath have been smoothed and polished by the constant onslaught from the torrent which plunged spectacularly from boulder to boulder at different heights. The guide told us a story about the waterfall; there is supposed to be a cave behind it, inside which grow many strange yellow flowers in the form of the dragon and the phoenix. Apparently, no-one has ever actually tried to prove this!

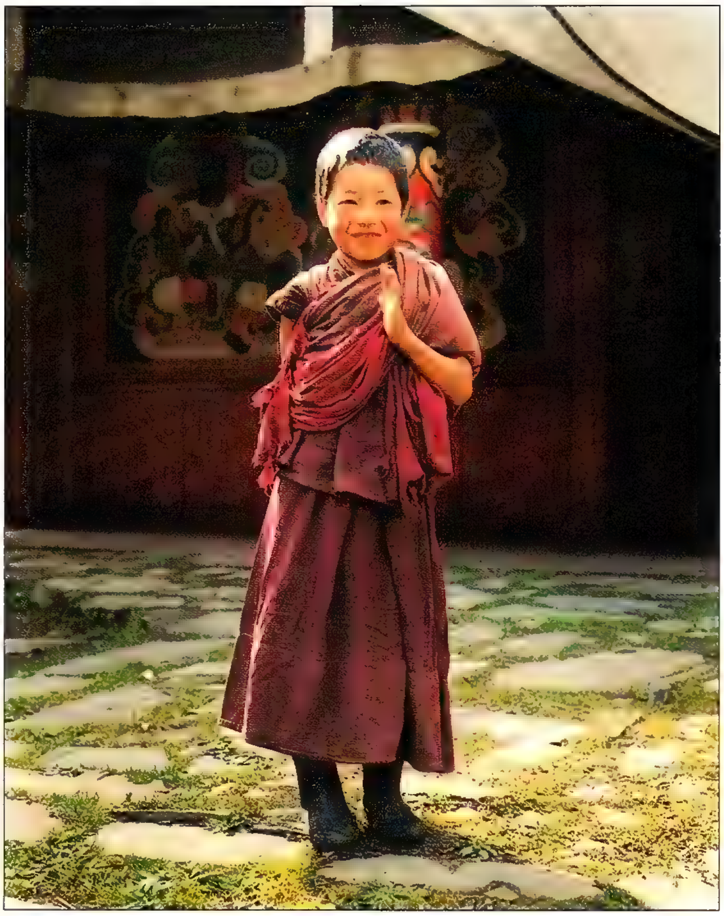
Tibetan Hamlets

As we knew we did not have too much time, we soon had to start back. There was many a village and hamlet scattered through the valley; clusters of wooden houses perched on the slopes surrounded by trees. Under the blue sky, the smoke from kitchen fires was rising. Streamers of all colours fluttered in the breeze, adding much charm to the peaceful rustic scene.

We visited two of the villages, Shiba and Baozuo. The usual house here is a two-storey building, the lower floor acting as a storeroom for grain and so on, while the upper floor serves as living quarters. The house, with a sloping ridged roof, is encircled by a fence. Wood figures largely as a building material. In some of the houses, all the beams, pillars, doors, walls, fences and ladders are of wood. On some parts which had not been finished and polished, I could clearly see the growth rings. Some houses have protruding wooden box-style windows with a small aperture. Light can enter, while rain is excluded — a simple but ingenious design.

Strolling through one village, I came across an old man reciting the scriptures near a school. He was dressed in a red

Autumn brings a blaze of colour to the region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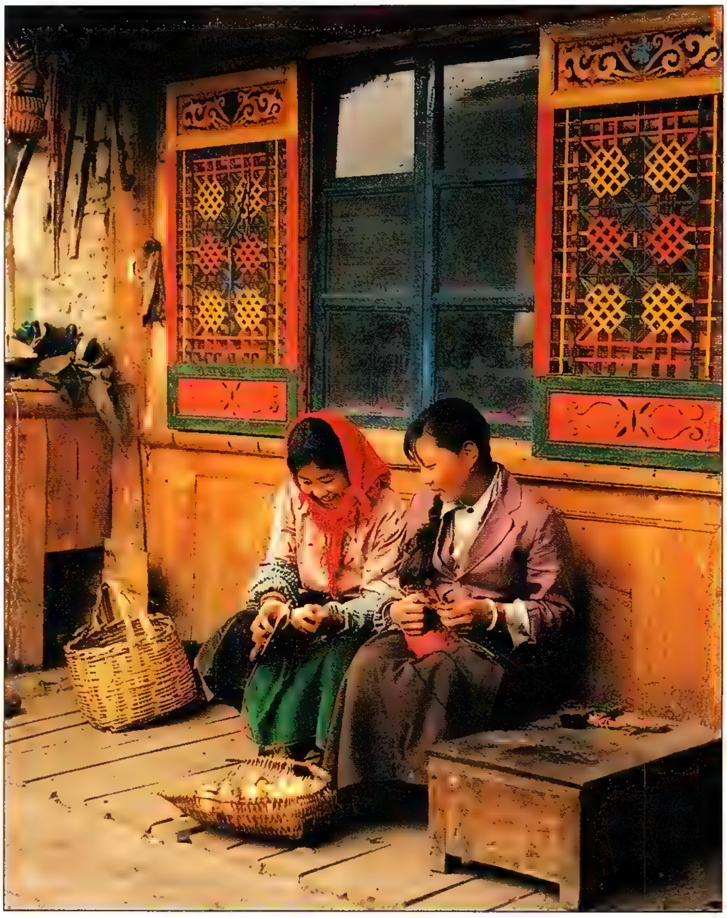
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robe like a monk or lama. Beating a hide drum and reading a page of scripture written in Tibetan, he was so engrossed in his devotions that he probably did not even notice the presence of outsiders.

Most of the people we saw in the villages were women and children. I was told that the men were all out with the herds. Cultivation of the land and such tasks as grinding grain fall on the shoulders of the womenfolk. Probably because of this, these women seem strong and forthright. To us visitors, they were hospitable without standing on ceremony. We called on one household and were rewarded with broad smiles, as well as butter tea, pancakes and so on. Sitting around the iron stove in such amiable company, we soon forgot the language barrier.

Child monk at Songpan Lamasery (1) and images of village life (2, 3).

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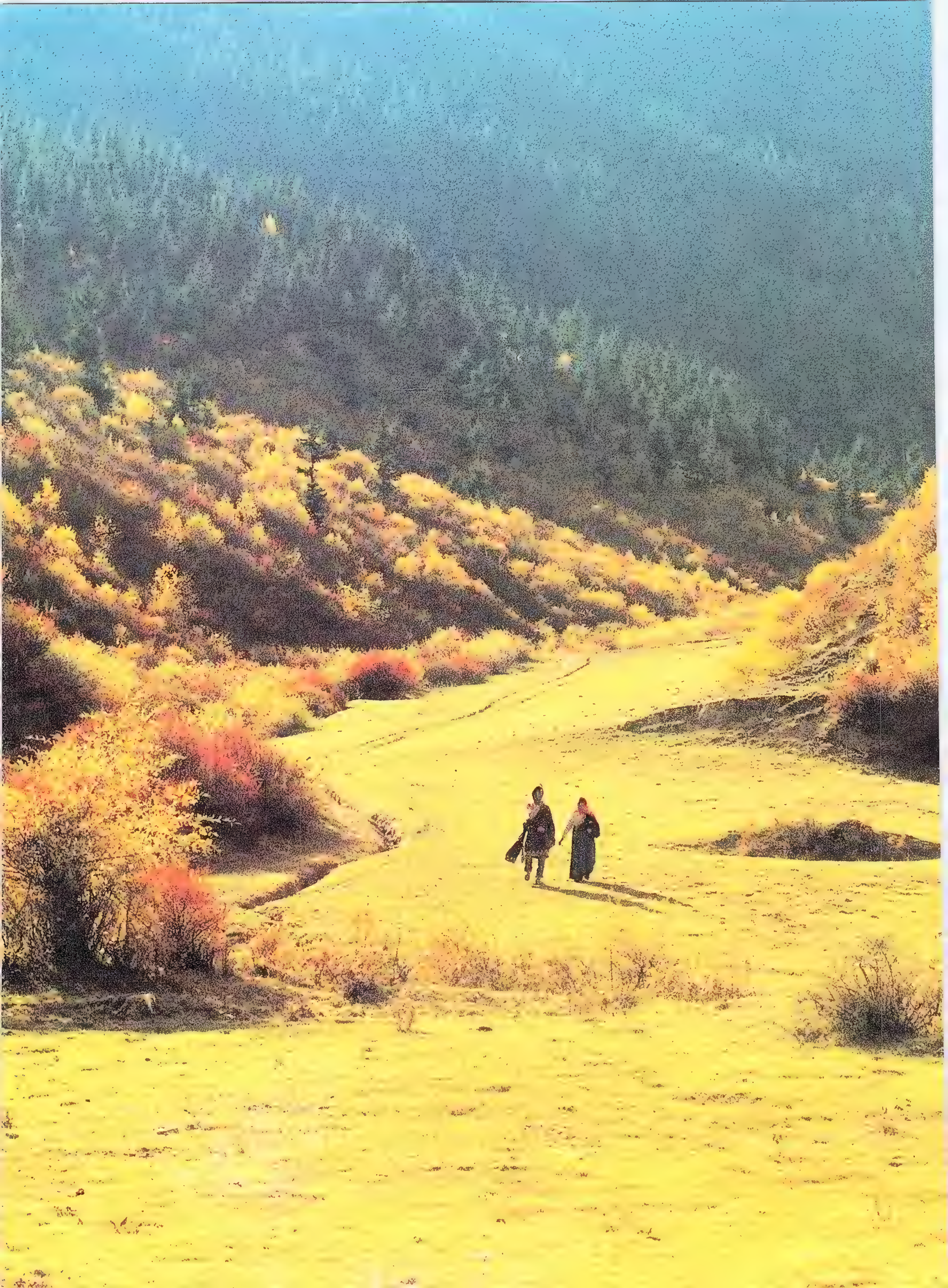
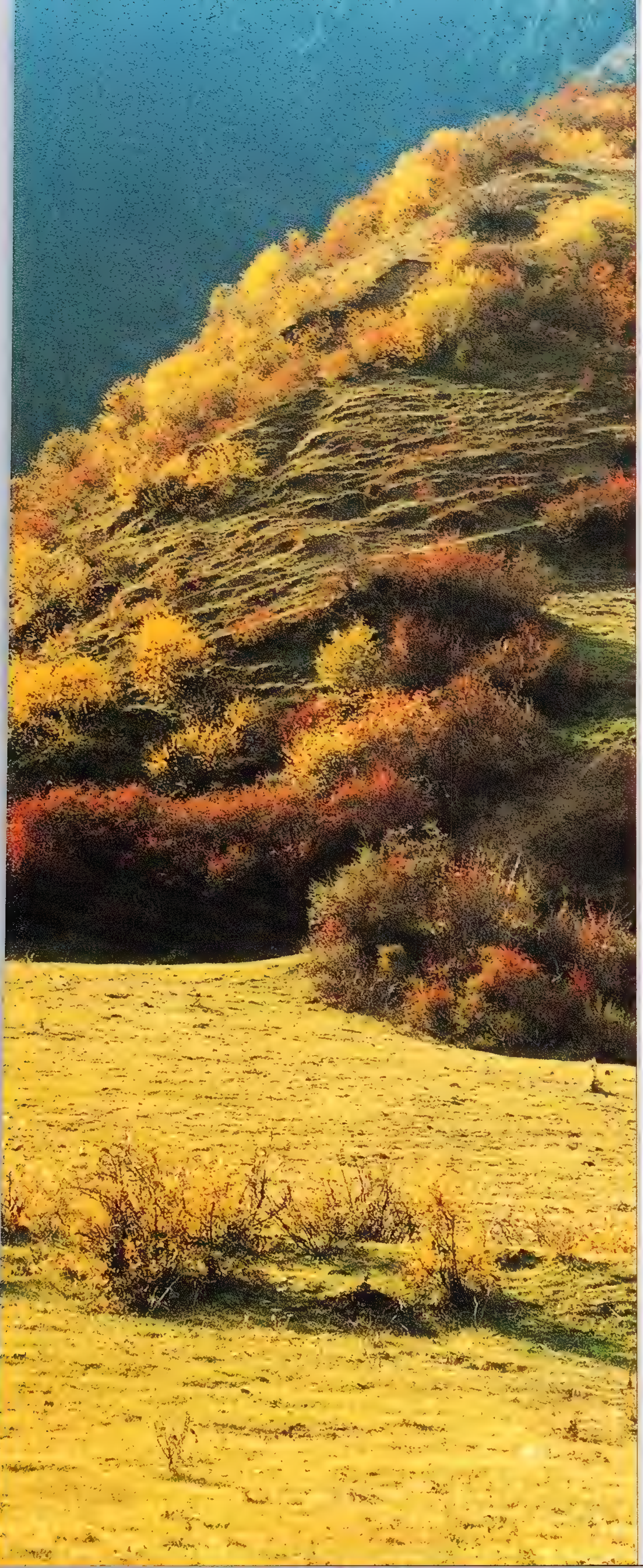




That night we returned to Songpan to prepare for our next day's trip to Erdaohai.

A Lake with Variegated Waters

As day broke, the fog was still thick. With the first rays of the sun, however, it started to disperse, revealing the distant mountains.

We rode our horses for four or five hours west along the Muni Gully before reaching a lake called Toudaohai (First Sea). Its rather curious name is said to result from the fact that the Tibetans who named it had never seen the real sea. The uneven ground of the Muni Gully has resulted in the formation of quite a number of lakes which are interlinked like a strand of pearls. The two ends of the strand, so to speak, are Toudaohai and Erdaohai (Second Sea).

We headed towards Erdaohai, passing lakes of varying sizes. The bottoms of these lakes are covered with deposits of calcium carbonate. Their water is generally green but, due to tricks played by the sunlight, the colours differ immensely; in some places the water is emerald-green, in others dark-blue, even black.

Some six kilometres from Toudaohai, Erdaohai sprawled across the end of the Muni Gully. The trees beside the lake seemed to be an extension of their own reflections in the water, with grotesquely elongated trunks. Their reflected foliage merged with the genuine waterweeds and algae under the surface. The optical illusion was broken only by an islet in the centre of the lake. Beyond the lake lay a tranquil pond with waters so clear that every detail of the weeds and dead tree trunks on its bottom could be seen. A few rocks emerging from the water added to the picturesque effect.

I followed the outflow from the pond until it suddenly disappeared underground. All this area around Erdaohai is characterized by karst formations, and there is a subterranean maze of caverns and potholes. Unfortunately these are still largely closed to tourists, and we resisted the urge to enter those we noticed along our route. After all, we had no special equipment with us.

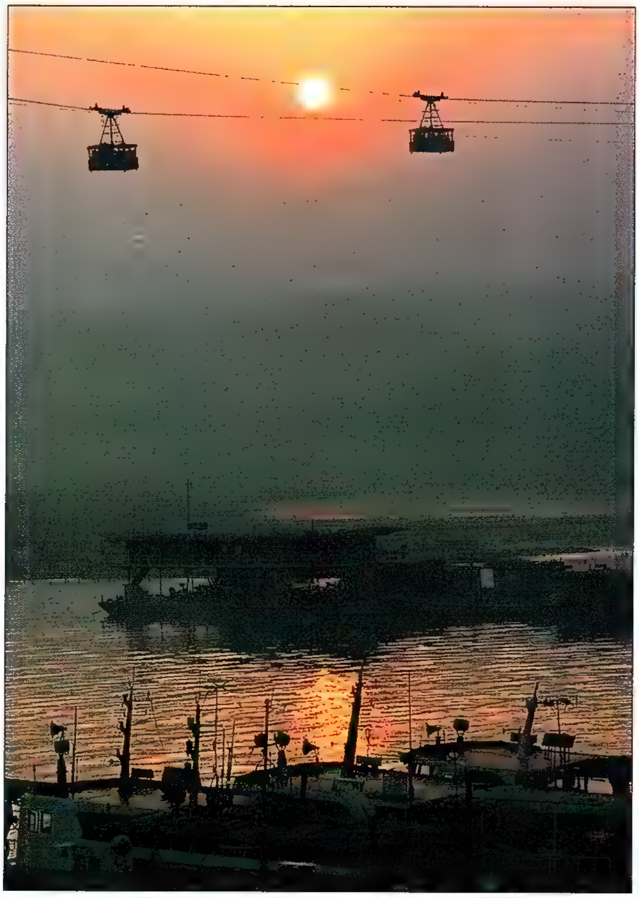
Dusk was falling. Our companions erected tents on a stretch of flat grassy land where we were to spend the night. As the sky lightened in the east early next morning, we set off for the return ride to Songpan, revelling in the purity of the air and the almost alpine mountain landscapes.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Unpolluted and unspoilt — the Muni Gully

Along Sichuan's Rivers

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY TIAN HUO



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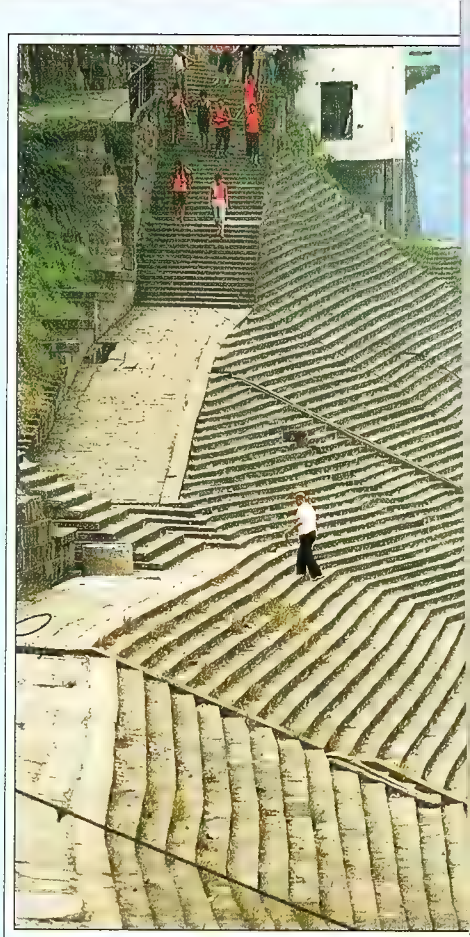
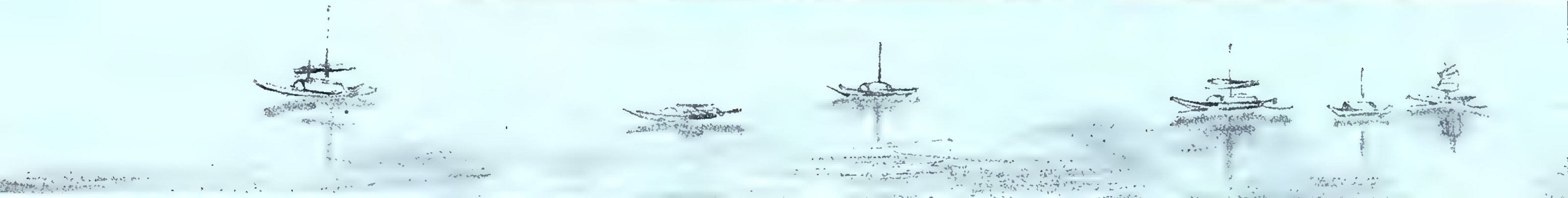


Early morning in the western part of the Sichuan Basin (1, by Lin Yiping). A tricky section on Mount Qingcheng (5) and the cable cars at Chongqing (2). Lunch break near Shibaozhai (4) and the steps to the landing stage at Yibin (3).



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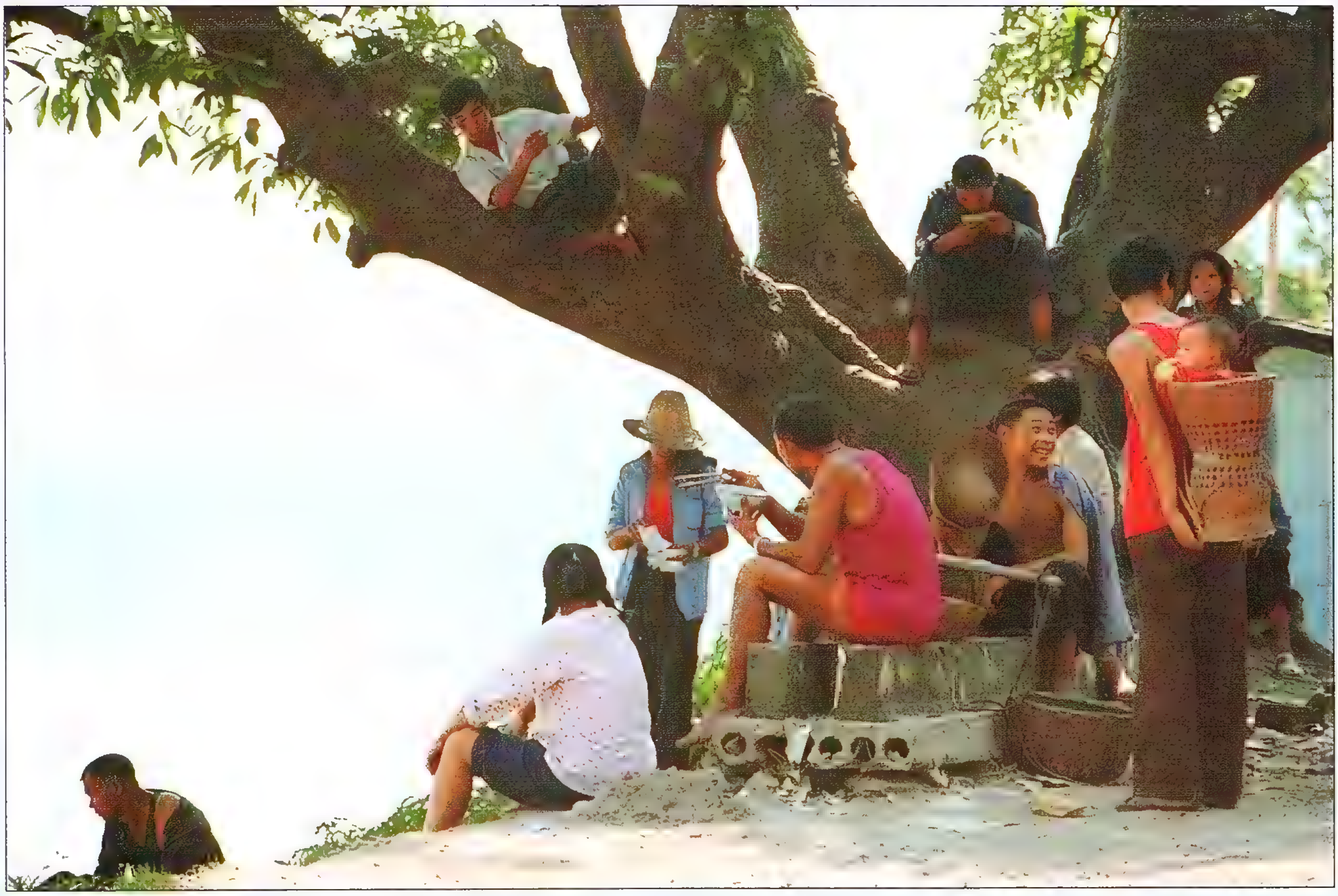

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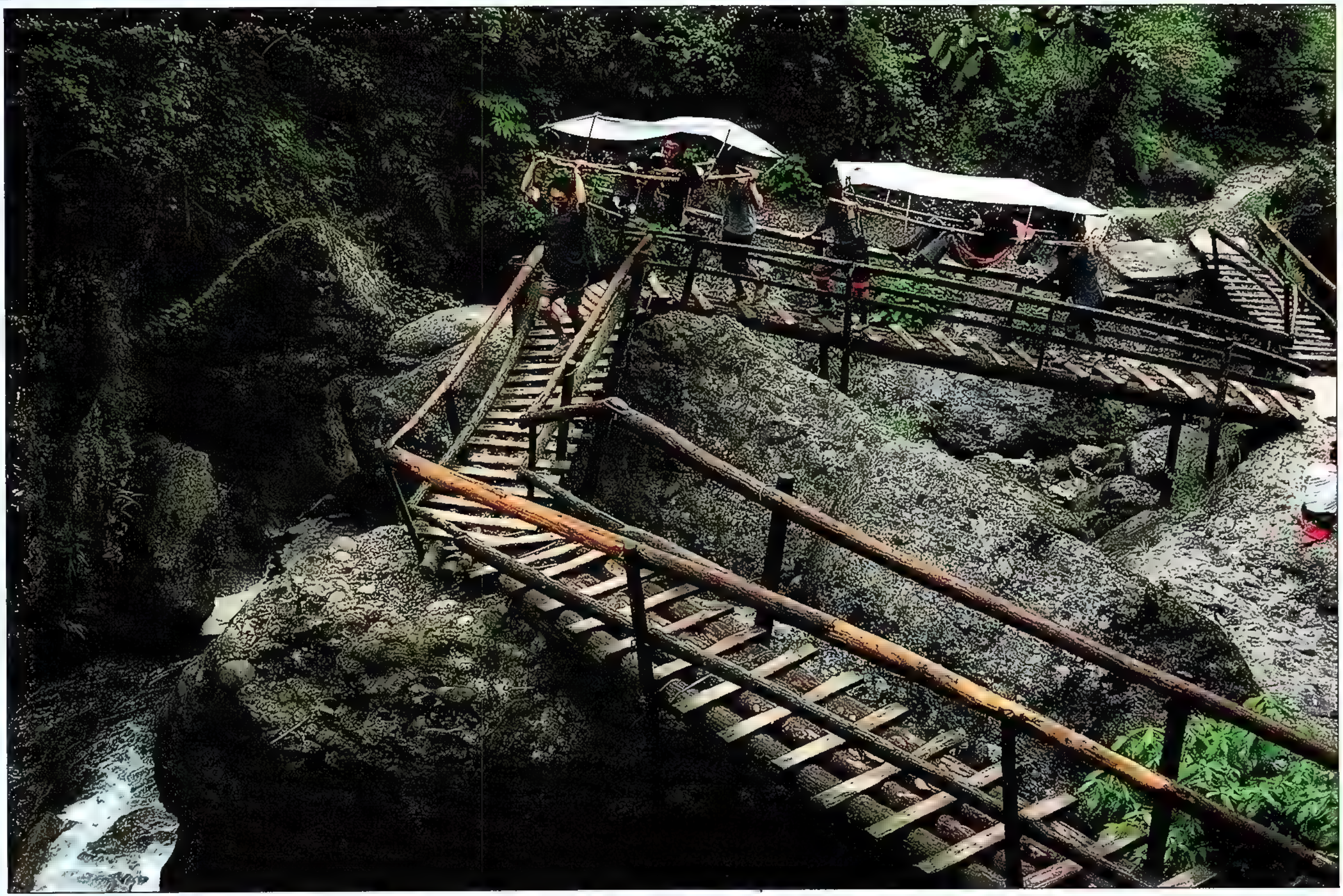

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I do not know why a performance of *Chuanjiang Haozi* (Song of the Sichuan Boat Trackers) I once saw keeps coming back into my mind. Actors impersonating boat trackers chanted continuously — rhythmically, but as forcefully and relentlessly as the flow of a river. This was a sort of shanty sung by boat trackers in times gone by to bolster their spirits and synchronize their movements when hauling a boat upstream.

It was probably the memory of this song which gave me the idea of a trip which first took me to Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan, located in the Sichuan Basin in the centre of the province in an area irrigated by the River Minjiang and other major tributaries of the Yangtse.

City in a Fertile Basin

The Minjiang has an annual average volume of 90,000 million cubic metres, twice as much as that of the Huanghe (Yellow River). The river rises on the southern slopes of the Minshan Mountains in northern Sichuan, flowing down across the plain. But around forty kilometres upstream of Chengdu, at Guanxian, it is blocked by the Dujiang Weir, an ancient hydraulic system said to have been designed by Li Bing in 250 B.C. Its waters

China's Longest River

The Yangtse (the common name in English for the Changjiang or Long River, as it is normally called in Chinese), with a total length of over 6,300 kilometres, can be divided into three sections — upper, middle and lower — on a roughly topographical basis.

The upper reaches, from the river's source in the glaciers on the northern slopes of the Tanggula Mountains in Qinghai to Yushu, still in Qinghai, are known as the River Tongtian (Leading to Heaven), while from Yushu to Yibin in Sichuan the river is called Jinsha (Golden Sand).

The middle reaches stretch from Yibin to Yichang in Hubei, and include the famous Three Gorges. Finally, the lower reaches comprise the section from Yichang to where the river empties itself into the East China Sea not far north of Shanghai.

The middle reaches of the Yangtse are referred to locally as the 'Chuanjiang' (Sichuan River), a term which also embraces the Minjiang, Jialing, Wujiang and a host of the other tributaries — large and small — which swell the great river in the Sichuan Basin. This wealth of rivers makes the province's name Sichuan (Four Rivers) understandable.

3

4

then fan out into a vast network of waterways which irrigate over six million hectares of farmland in the Sichuan Basin.

On the approach to Chengdu all you see are hillocks covered from top to bottom with lush green terraces and a maze of small channels criss-crossing the plain. This is rich agricultural country, China's greatest rice producer and one of its largest wheat producers too. Our car skirted the Jinjiang, a tributary of the Minjiang which flows through the city.

Rulers and factions have often vied for supremacy over Chengdu. Shielded by mountains on all sides, it was easy to hold, but also well sited for making sorties against the enemy. In economic terms, Chengdu was a plum prize, given the fertility of the basin and its bountiful harvests, factors essential to a stable government and a contented populace. It has been the power base of several dynasties since King Kaiming of the ancient State of Shu made it his capital in around 400 B.C. During the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), it became so famous for its silks and brocades that it was dubbed Jincheng (Brocade City).

And Chengdu contains many relics testifying to its importance

5

The flavour of the Chengdu streets: craft boutique (2), paintings market (4), and unhurried cyclists (5). A huge bronze ding (four-legged cauldron) at the Wuhou Temple (1) and the entrance to Wangjian's tomb (3, by Lin Yiping).

1

The Three Kingdoms Period

Following the collapse of the Eastern Han dynasty (25-220), China underwent a period of extreme unrest and confusion between the years 220 and 280 as feudal rulers struggled to establish their supremacy.

Three major rival factions emerged: the Kingdom of Wei in the north under Cao Cao, former prime minister to the Han court; the Kingdom of Wu in the southeast, headed by the powerful noble, Sun Quan; and the Kingdom of Shu in the southwest, ruled by Liu Bei, a descendant of the Han imperial house. The situation was made even more complex by the sundry alliances entered into between these factions at various times.

A wealth of legends and literature has sprung up around these historical figures and their principal advisers and generals. In Sichuan, as the location of Shu, it is men such as Liu Bei himself, Zhuge Liang, the cunning and resourceful military strategist and Shu prime minister, and General Guan Yu, sworn brother of Liu Bei and a byword for loyalty, compassion and valour deified by posterity, who are most revered.

2

through the centuries. Near the river in the southern part of the city, in Nanjiao Park, is the Shrine of Zhuge Liang (181-234), prime minister of Shu during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), although the shrine itself dates only from the Tang dynasty (618-907). A later ruler of Shu, Wangjian (847-918) is commemorated in his tomb to the northwest of Chengdu. Within the city limits, too, is the place where the famous poet Du Fu (712-770) once lived, the so-called Thatched Cottage of Du Fu. And the venerable Baoguang (Precious Light) Monastery, founded in the ninth century, and its treasures can still be visited in Xindu County, eighteen kilometres north of the city.

3

Pleasant Way of Life

Near the hotel overlooking the River Jinjiang in which I stayed, there was a market selling traditional Chinese paintings. Stalls stretched for 250 metres along the pavement on Renmin Road South. Haggling obligatory! Among the paintings and scrolls on offer were some in the style of such celebrated artists as Qi Baishi (1863-1957) and Xu Beihong (1895-1953), also known as Peon Hsu. One of my companions who was knowledgeable about Chinese painting told me that quite a few of those selling paintings were themselves accomplished artists.

It was while we were strolling through this open-air market that I first sensed something of the special quality of life in this city of around four million inhabitants. The people in the streets — on their way to or from work — looked so carefree and relaxed. At the flower market, people were selecting flowers to buy not, they said, for any particular occasion but simply for pleasure — to brighten their homes and fill them with fragrance.

One night, following tempting aromas, I wandered among the numerous cooked food stalls set up in the lanes and streets. I had a great time, sampling something spicy, something salty, something sweet and something sour, including *dandan* noodles, the name coming from the way the dish was traditionally sold from an itinerant vendor's *dan* or shoulder pole, *guaiwei* ('odd taste') diced rabbit, and much else besides.

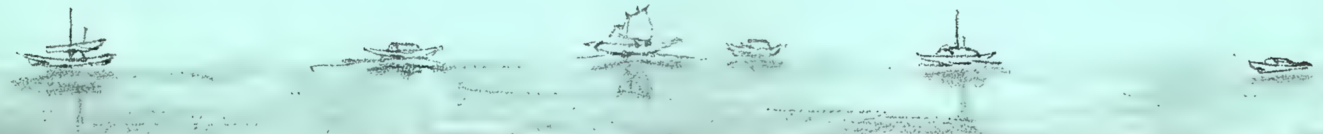
4

Birdsong forms the background for a leisurely gossip (1) or a game of cards (3) in a Chengdu teahouse; some teahouses even stage musical performances (4). Local snacks — rich and spicy (2) (1 and 2 by Lin Yiping).

Chengdu's Teahouses

There are teahouses all along the bank of the Jinjiang, filled with people from dawn till dusk. One afternoon we entered one of them, chose a table with a view of the river, and ordered a covered bowl of tea each. It was not at all expensive, just a couple of jiao (ten jiao equal one yuan) per bowl. You can stay there all day for that, if you so wish. Waiters come by from time to time and top the bowl up with boiling water from a huge copper kettle.

All around us sat unhurried people, now taking a sip of tea, now comparing their songbirds' warbling performance, now joining in a game of chess, or just enjoying a good old gossip among friends. But the most popular pastime was probably a game of cards, the cards being longer and narrower than is usual in the West, some types coated with tung oil to make them more durable and water-resistant.



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There are no pictures on them, merely red or black shapes at either end to represent the number.

Some teahouses put on entertainment for their customers, generally folk artists. You may be lucky enough, as we were, to witness a quintet of storytellers and musicians playing the dulcimer, *huqin* (violin) and *sanxian* (three-stringed Chinese guitar), as well as wooden clappers. The stories told are often very amusing and alternate recitation and singing.

Nearby Attractions

In the Chengdu area, at the confluence of the lower reaches of the Jinjiang and the Chishui, there is a township named Huanglongxi (Yellow Dragon Brook). According to legend, Zhuge Liang, the Shu prime minister mentioned earlier, came here in person to teach the local inhabitants the art of sericulture, the result being the famous Shu brocade. This legend has probably grown up merely to show the long history of the township. Certainly, as we walked through the streets, we could sense the antiquity of the place. It has five streets and seven lanes, all paved with stone slabs and lined with simple buildings roofed with small blue tiles. Beside a creek there were both monasteries and houses, with streets threading their way apparently through the monastery grounds. With its old banyan trees, old buildings and old terraces, Huanglongxi certainly aroused my nostalgia for the days of yore. Especially when we encountered a group of people performing dragon and lion dances and masquerading in procession to the sound of drums and gongs.

4

Sixty-five kilometres west of Chengdu is Mount Qingcheng, another picturesque tourist attraction and a one-time Taoist centre. It takes about four hours to walk to the summit, but the traditional way to enjoy its scenery is from a *huagan* ('sliding poles'), a kind of canvas litter slung between bamboo poles. The passenger sits or lies in the litter which is carried by two men. There are plank walkways through the mountain region which span deep ravines, even streams, but regardless of the treacherous nature of the terrain you are crossing, as a passenger — thanks to your porters' skill — you feel as though you are moving effortlessly through the air. When we were there, both sides of the walkway were thick with vines and other green foliage while cataracts splashed down, the whole forming a cool corridor of nature.

2

3

Leshan's Great Buddha

In the plain below Chengdu, the Jinjiang reunites via a network of waterways with the Minjiang on its course southward towards the Yangtse. We took the road beside the river to Leshan. Known as Jiazhou from around the year 900 in the Northern Zhou dynasty, the town was given its present name during the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). It lies beside the river at the point where the Minjiang is joined from the west by the rivers Qingyi and Dadu. However, due to the continual turbulence at the confluence, in the past the Minjiang often overflowed its banks, causing damage to fields and property and sometimes deaths.

Leshan's main claim to fame, the Great Buddha on Lingyun (Touching the Clouds) Cliff is said to have been erected to counteract the turbulence. The monk Hai Tong who started the construction work in 713 during the Tang dynasty sited the Buddha opposite the point where the three rivers meet with the intention of suppressing the fearful cross-currents through the Buddha's pacifying powers. But it must be said that, even after the statue was completed ninety years later, the river continued to overflow its banks as before, submerging the Buddha's lower extremities on occasion. In fact, there are still marks showing the different levels reached by the flood waters on the huge statue's feet. It was only after the three rivers had been harnessed at a later date by blowing up reefs, building dams and dredging their beds that their menace was finally eliminated.

The Great Buddha is seventy-one metres tall, and that in a seated position; its shoulders are twenty-four metres wide and its head is 14.7 metres long. Its ears are seven metres long and one foot alone is large enough to take one hundred people! The face bears an enigmatic expression, with eyes half-closed as if meditating on

The old banyan tree at Huanglongxi (1) sets the tone for a New Year parade (3); enthralled spectators at an open-air opera performance (2) (all by Peng Xiaomin and Gao Yuan). Canvas and bamboo litters for an easy tour of Mount Qingcheng (4).

1

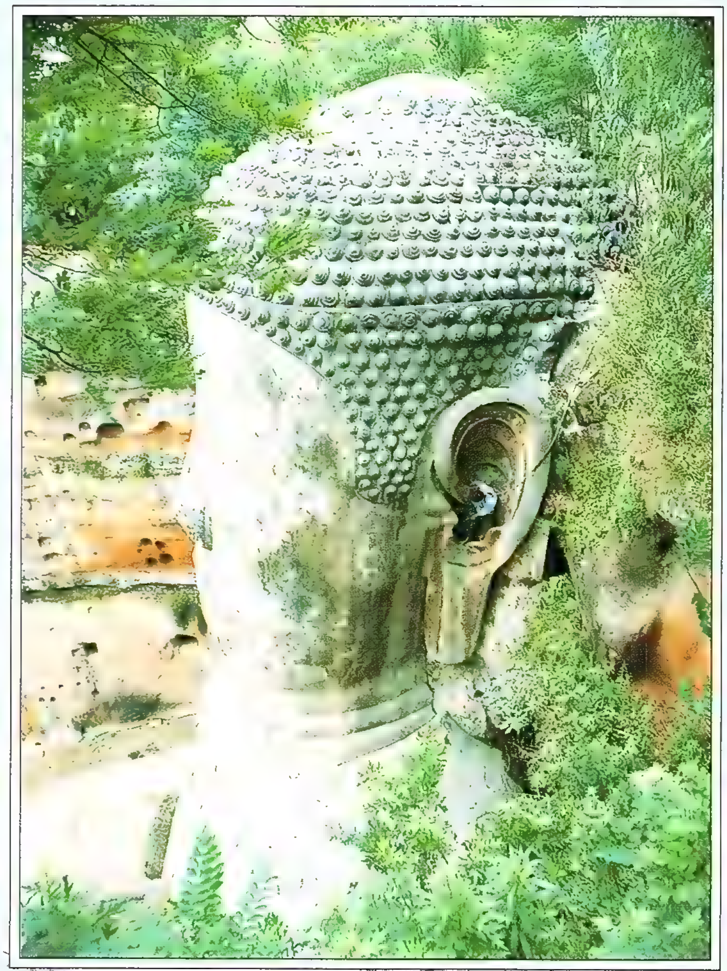
mysteries beyond the understanding of humankind.

Minjiang's Water Country

Downstream of the confluence with the Qingyi and the Dadu, the Minjiang deepens and runs more smoothly. By the time it passes through the ancient township of Wutongqiao twenty-five kilometres to the south, it has become a wide body of gently rippling water.

At Wutongqiao, dwellings stand on both sides of the Minjiang and its tributaries, and there are iron-chain bridges spanning the waterways. Strolling along one of the river banks, we noted that most of the houses there are just a few feet from the river. The aerial roots of the giant banyans growing in front of the houses overhang the surface of the water while their thick foliage casts a welcome shade along the water's edge.

On the surface of the river, as smooth as green jade, a group of people were busy decorating a rowing boat in spectacular fashion. They were preparing for the celebrations which would take place on the night of the Dragon Boat Festival a few days later. I took a close look at the 'dragon'; its body was made of spring onions, it had a crest of eggplants, and its whiskers and fangs were long red chillies!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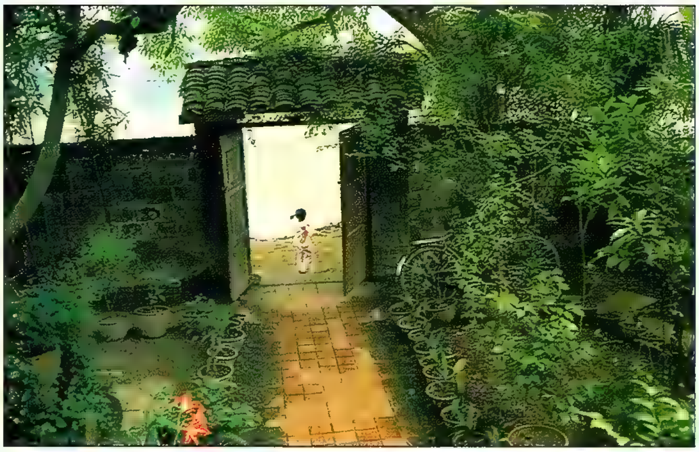
The Lost Bo People

Retracing our steps to Leshan, we boarded a passenger boat to take us down the Minjiang to Yibin. It is at Yibin that, after a course of some seven hundred kilometres, the Minjiang finally converges with the Jinsha, and the mighty Yangtse is formed. A landing stage has been built where the rivers meet. From here you can watch the muddy waters of the Jinsha and the clear emerald-green waters of the Minjiang flow for a short while side by side in two distinct bands of colour before they merge.

This landing stage, overhung by a flight of about one hundred steps, was where our boat moored. I learned that so many steps are a common sight in cities along this middle section of the Yangtse through Sichuan. When the river is high, you may only need to walk up a dozen or so steps to reach the town. But when we were there, the river was low and we had to climb the entire flight.

In ancient times, Yibin was known as Rongzhou (Border Town) and was said to be inhabited by 'barbarians'. In pre-Qin times, that



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Tang-dynasty carvings (1) line the zigzag path near Leshan's Great Buddha, here enjoying attention to an ear (2, by Lin Yiping). At Wutongqiao, the river is never far from the door (4), and there is a suspension bridge across the Minjiang (3). Magnificent dragon of green vegetables, spring onions, apples and chillies, with an eggplant spine (5)!

1

2

is, before 221 B.C., Yibin was in fact the centre of the Bo people. The word 'Bo' means 'forest dwellers'. According to early historical records, the Bo first lived simply, in the plain, on hill slopes and in caves; much later, in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), as their numbers and their power grew, the Ming court became uneasy and decided to exterminate them. Troops were sent against Jiusi, the Bo capital, many times; several hundred battles were fought over a period of two hundred years. But the Bo, tough and good fighters, successfully repulsed the imperial troops.

Nevertheless, during the Wanli reign (1573-1620), these formidable tribesmen suddenly and inexplicably vanished. The ruins of Jiusi, several groups of cliff tombs, and a number of the famous hanging coffins — these are the only traces left for historians and archaeologists of our times to try to probe the mysterious disappearance of an entire people.

The cliff tombs of the Bo can be found in several places around Yibin, including Wulixiang. We had to turn back upstream along the Minjiang for a way to reach this place; the Bo cemetery was on the opposite side of the river. Once we were there, we could see many dark holes on the cliffs — the tomb entrances. Entering one, we walked through a long gallery to the coffin chamber, a square-shaped cave tunnelled into the cliff. Such neat work in such hard rock, and at such a height above the ground, obviously points to a high degree of technical competence. The chamber was empty; the coffin or coffins it once contained had presumably already been removed for study and safekeeping by archaeologists.

Hilltop City

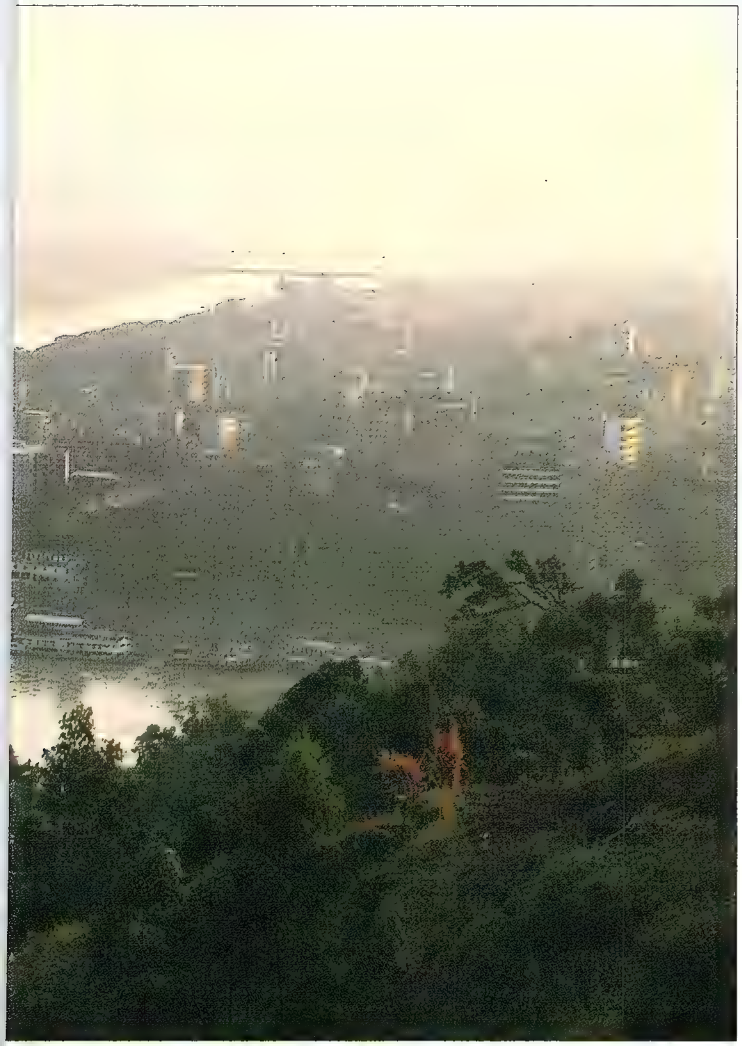
From Yibin we finally took to the Yangtse, travelling for eight hours on a hovercraft. We sped past Luzhou, famed for its alcoholic drink made with a kind of yeast known as *daqu,* and Jiangjin, otherwise known as the 'land of oranges and tangerines', before we arrived in Chongqing. Along the way, further tributaries such as the Tuojiang, the Chishui and Qijiang joined the Yangtse. At Chongqing there is another addition from the north — the River Jialing — which together with the Yangtse cuts the city into three parts: central district, north bank and south bank.

Heavily industrialized nowadays, Chongqing is the largest city in Sichuan, with a population of around six million. One thing I did not expect of this city I had heard so much about was the size of its port and dock area. Apart from the old wharves such as Chaotianmen (Gate Facing Heaven), Lingjiangmen (Gate Facing the River),

Wanglongmen (Gate Watching the Dragon) and Nanjimen, there was a whole row of pontoon landing stages. All around us was a busy scene as cargo and passenger ships manoeuvred, berthing or setting out on trips up and down the river.

Historical records show that this city was the capital of the State of

The rivers Jinsha and Minjiang meet at Yibin (3, by Lin Yiping). A place which still evokes a feeling of the past (2), Yibin shows novel touches: the huge bag is filled with marsh gas to propel the bus (4). Old and new side by side (5). A pillow for the dead, once the property of a rich local family (1), and tombs of the Bo people (6, by Lu Ruiquan).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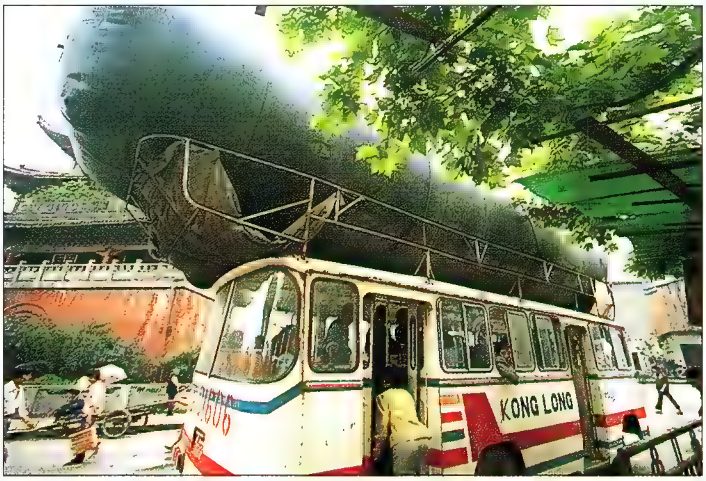

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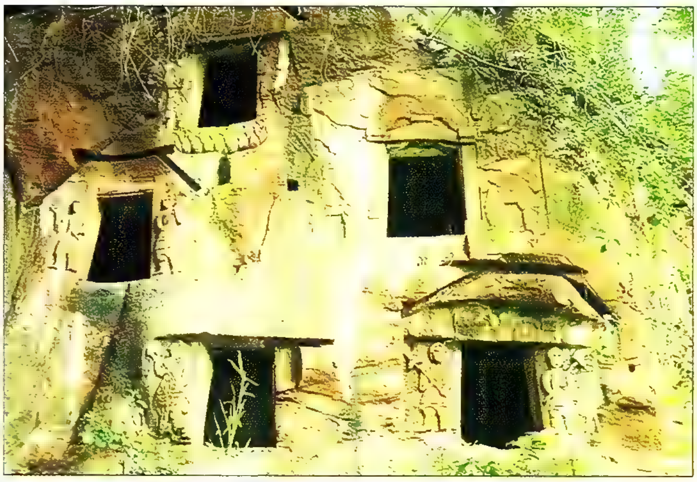
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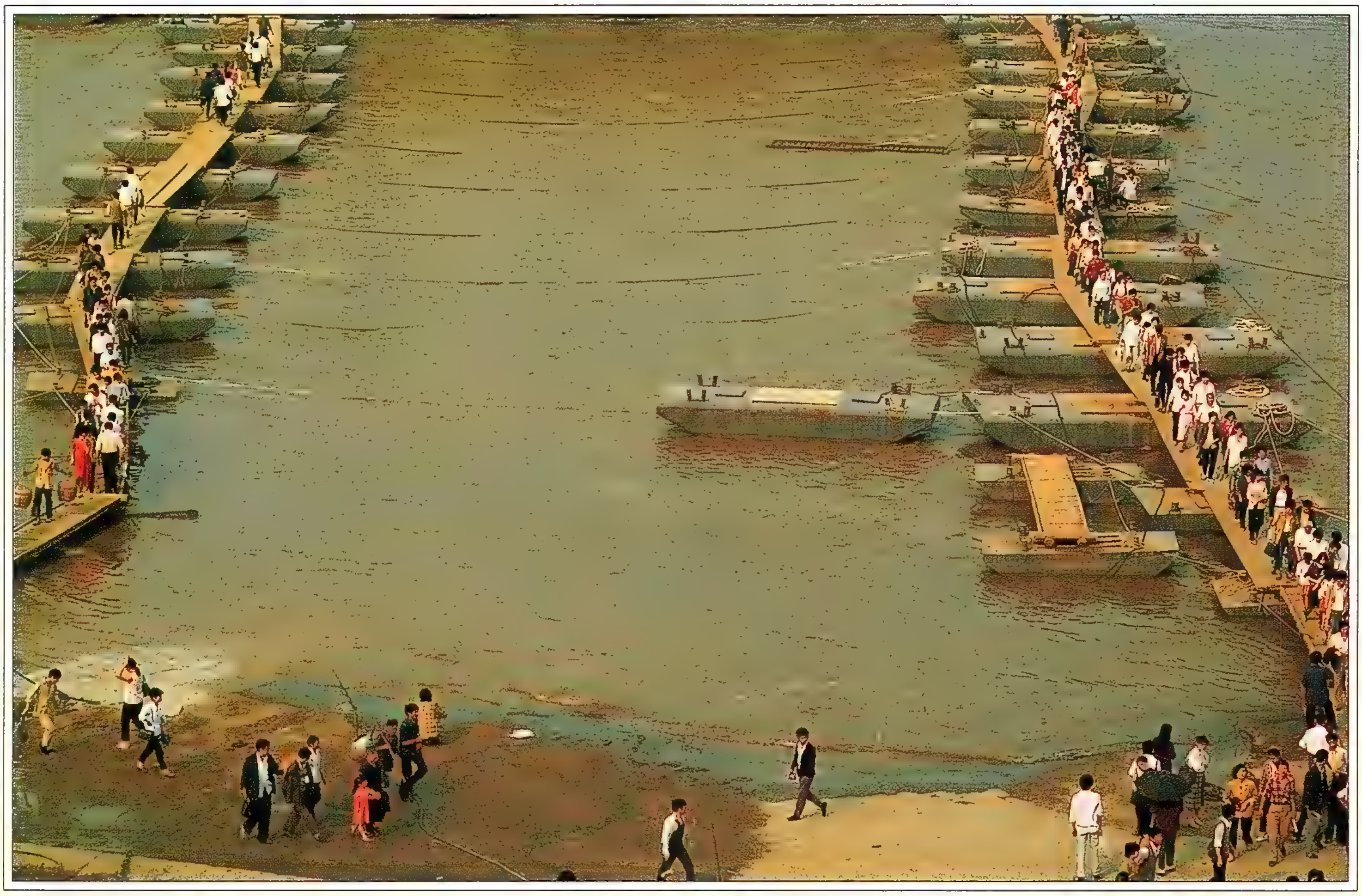

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Ba some 3,000 years ago, as important at that time as Chengdu, then the capital of Shu. By the Qin dynasty (221-206 B.C.), when it was called Bajun, this was already an important trading centre thanks to its location. It received its present name only in the twelfth century to commemorate a locally born prince who went on to become Emperor Zhaodun of the Southern Song (1127-1279).

During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945), Chongqing became the war-time capital of China since all the eastern part of the country was occupied by the Japanese. The rich and influential flocked to seek refuge in Chongqing, while VIPs built sumptuous villas and mansions on the south bank of the Yangtse in the Huangshan and Wangshan Hills. Today, as Nanshan Park, these wooded hills are accessible to the public at large. Among the residences on view on Huangshan Hill is that of Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975). His private air-raid shelter nearby is also well-preserved.

Chongqing Life

The layout and topography of Chongqing are most attractive, and can be seen to best advantage from the south bank after dark when lights pick out the city's silhouette. Rows of high-rises and single-storey houses follow the contours of Pipa (Loquat) Hill in the central district, rising in tiers up to two hundred metres in an interlocking pattern. The lights from the windows glisten like so many stars, casting reflections on the river flowing by far below. This has to be one of the most picturesque townscapes along the Yangtse in Sichuan.

2

The hills, though, mean that the city-dwellers of Chongqing inevitably need to emulate their country cousins living in Sichuan's mountain areas. They carry everything they possibly can on their back in a variety of wicker or rattan baskets, leaving their hands free to grasp a walking stick or steady themselves on the steep slopes in the city. This must be the only major city in China where you do not see armies of bicycles everywhere!

But it would be a mistake to think that the people of Chongqing are anything but industrious, even if they do have to take the hills slowly. The traffic on the bridges over the Yangtse and Jialing is endless, and at peak times

pedestrians and motor vehicles form a sort of surging black tide. Those who refuse to shove their way through the crowds can take the cable car across the Jialing which, as well as providing a welcome alternative means of transport, also gives a bird's-eye view of the city.

Shibaozhai and Wanxian

Downstream of Chongqing the Yangtse changes its nature. From this point it starts to run through a long, narrow valley which, further east, forms a series of gorges. The most perilous (and beautiful) stretches along this section are the Qutang, Wuxia and Xiling Gorges, known collectively as the Three Gorges of the Yangtse, which straddle the Sichuan/Hubei border.

At Chongqing, we embarked on a special tourist ship. We passed Changshou, Fuling and Fengdu before stopping at Shibaozhai on the north bank of the Yangtse, just upstream of Zhongxian.

Shibaozhai is famous for its red tower, which hugs a crag on the 220-metre-high Yuying (Jade Seal) Hill. Although the tower has stood for more than four hundred years, it seemed to lean at a definite angle, which gave us a moment's pause. This is a twelve-storeyed affair; the lower ten storeys are built against the cliff, the upper two on top. Each floor is dedicated to famous Shu generals, renowned poets, etc. According to historical records, the tower was first built in the twenty-fourth year (1545) of the Jiajing reign of the Ming dynasty, and has been renovated generation after generation. Inside, there is a near-vertical wooden spiral staircase. From the top, which affords glorious panoramic views over the Yangtse, the river seems to stretch like a yellow band east towards the Three Gorges.

We continued along the river, reaching Wanxian, known as the

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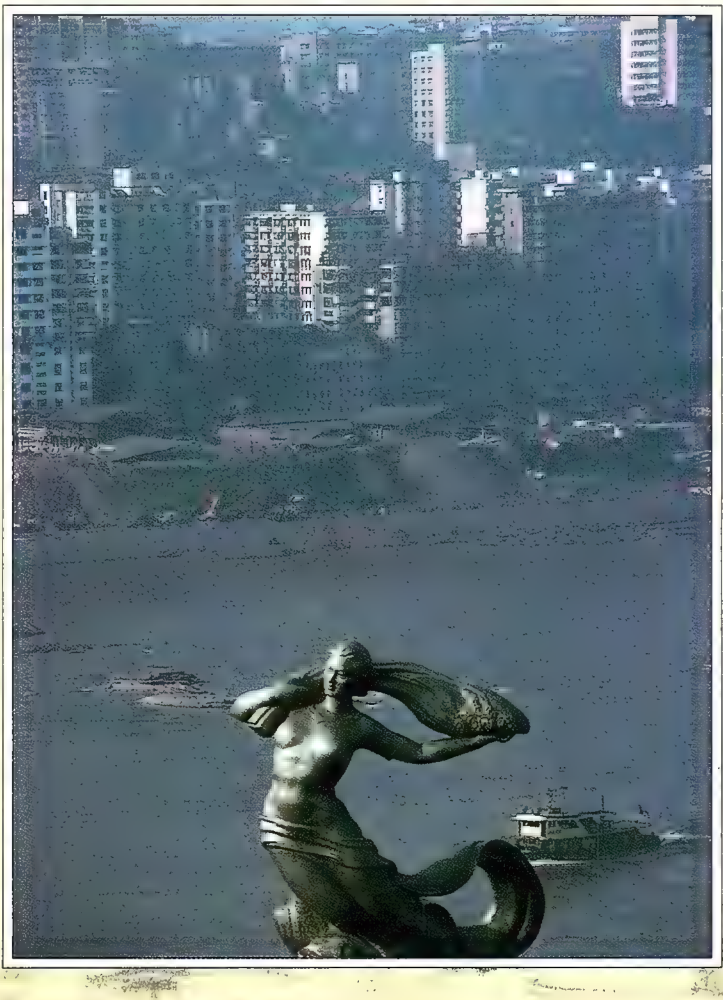
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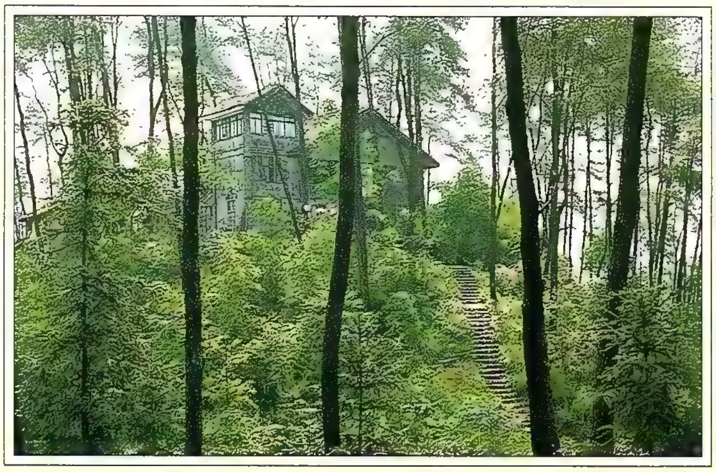
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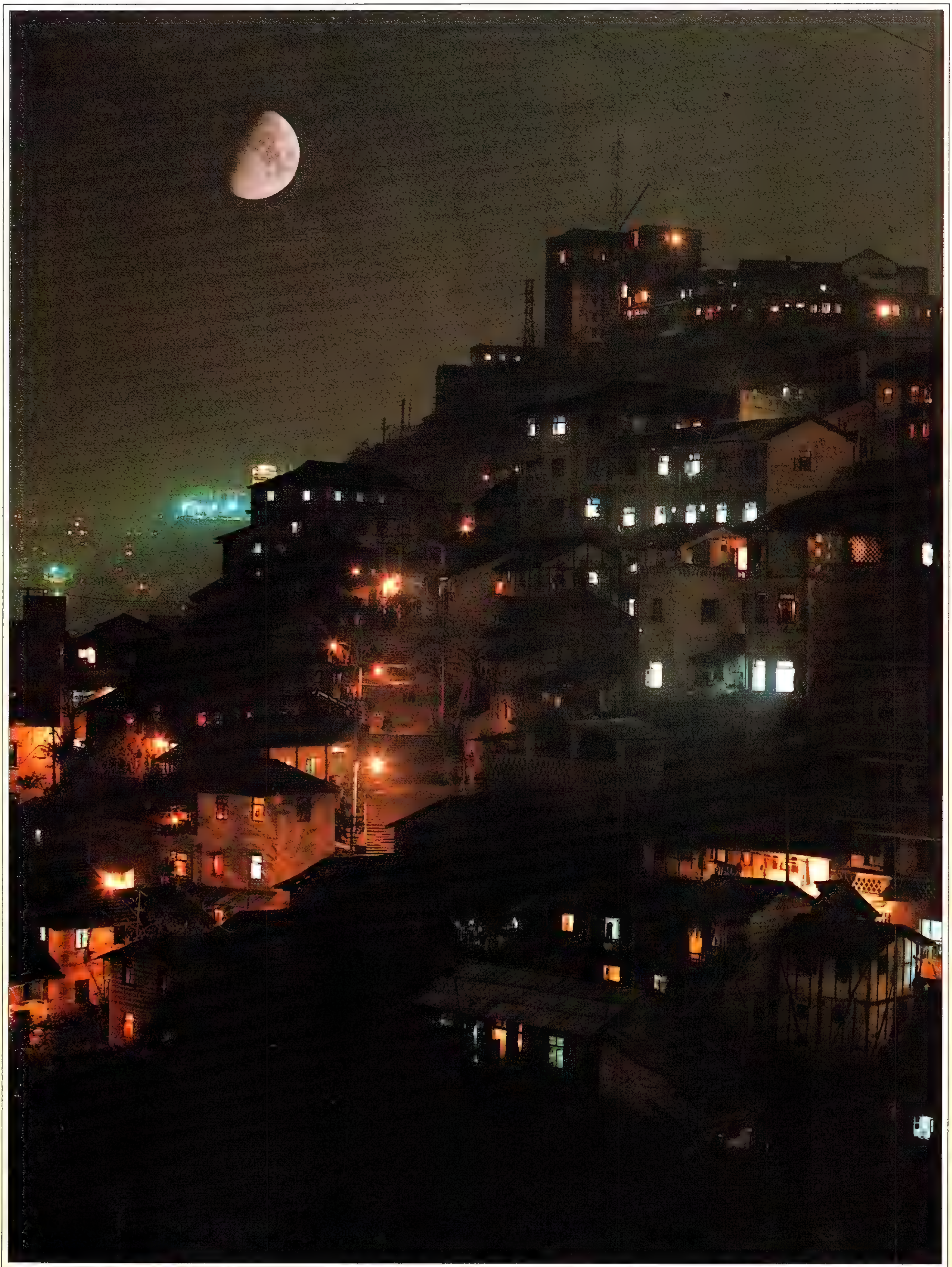
The landing stages at Chongqing are in constant use (1); view over the Yangtse to the city's central district (3), and a happy young resident (2). On the south bank of the river, in Nanshan Park (5), stands the former residence of Chiang Kai-shek (6). Enjoying the garden of a sanatorium (4).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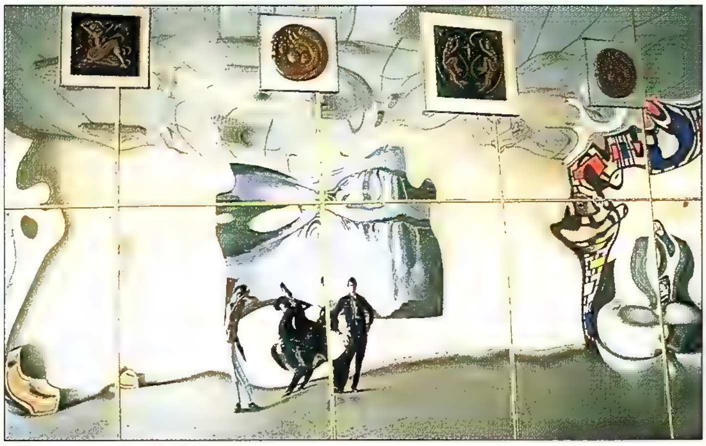
'Gateway to East Sichuan', after some twenty kilometres. Here our ship moored for the night so that we would be able to pass through the Three Gorges in broad daylight.

Chongqing is reputed to be one of the hottest cities in China so, having survived that, we had sort of assumed that the worst of the heat was over. We had reckoned without Wanxian, where the temperature in early summer can climb to 38°C. At the riverside, we saw many people taking a cooling dip or just trying to catch any extra breath of breeze there might be coming off the river.

We were keen to visit the city despite the heat, so we climbed the hundreds of steps to see its famous night market, which stays open until late. All kinds of merchandise were on display: pebbles from the Three Gorges, bamboo water-pipes, bamboo carvings, and a wealth of rattan and cane wares. Roadside stalls were selling cooling, opaque soybean jelly and fresh fruit. In main thoroughfares and back lanes alike, most of the men and children wore either a very light vest or went bare-chested.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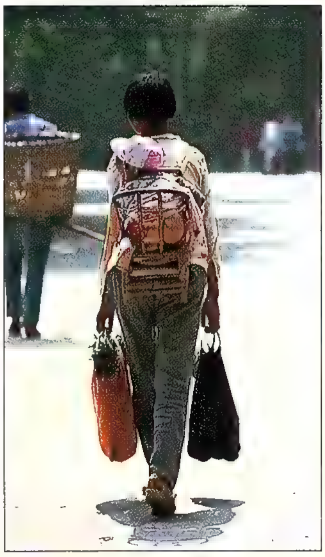
In Memory of a Hero

Early next morning, at six, our ship resumed her voyage, travelling fifty-five kilometres before our first stop at Yunyang. As this was a special tour vessel, we were able to moor directly at the Shrine of Zhang Fei on the south bank of the Yangtse opposite the town.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The shrine is built high up on the slope and we again had to climb countless steps before passing under the horizontal tablet at the entrance bearing the characters *Jiang Shang Qing Feng* (Gentle Breeze from the River). There was a flood gauge on the wall alongside. I discovered that the summer of 1870 saw unprecedented water levels, the river actually rising to submerge the tablet above the shrine entrance!

In the main hall of the shrine a group of statues presented a tableau of Zhang Fei being murdered by his subordinates; this needs a bit of explanation.

Zhang Fei was another of the famous generals of Shu at the time of the Three Kingdoms Period. On learning the news in 221 that his sworn brother Guan Yu had been

The moon smiles on the lights of Chongqing (1, by Ma Yadong). Old customs persist, like carrying most things on one's back (3) and selling special grave clothes (4). But disco dancing has reached Chongqing (5) and the cable car station has an ultramodern interior (2).

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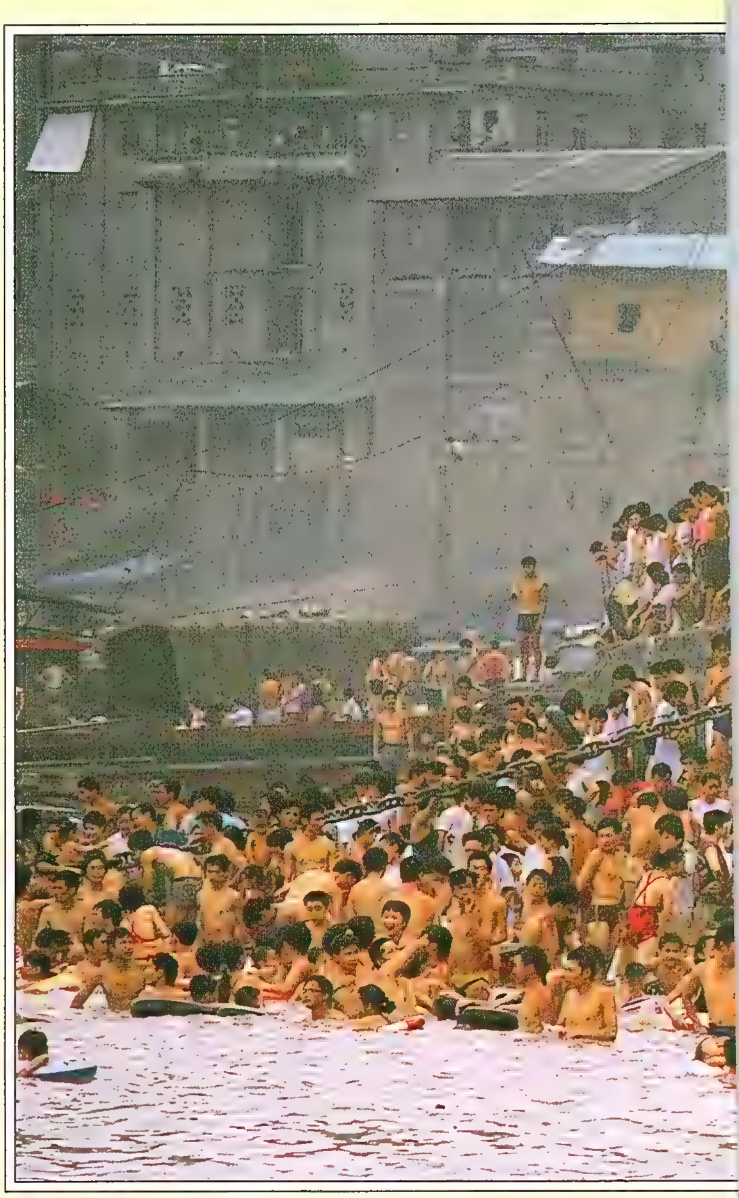

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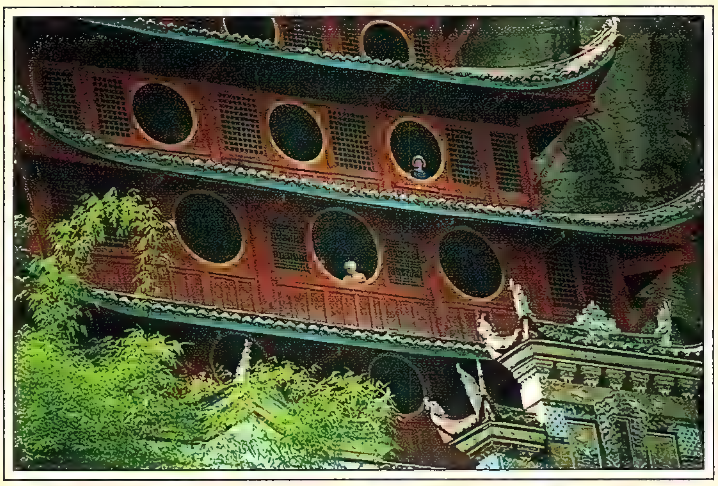

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killed by a general of Wu, the rival state to the southeast, Zhang — nicknamed the 'Tiger General' — was mad for revenge. At that time he was in charge of the garrison at Langzhong further north, on the River Jialing. He ordered two of his commanders to take their troops — arrayed in white as a sign of mourning — and launch a punitive attack against the Wu forces. However, afraid to undertake this risky action, the two commanders got Zhang drunk, then stabbed him to death and cut off his head. As they intended to defect to Wu, they took his severed head with them to demonstrate their change of heart. During their wild flight, they accidentally dropped Zhang's head into the Yangtse and it floated downstream, only to be retrieved by an old fisherman somewhere near Yunyang. The shrine here was built in memory of the brave and ill-fated Zhang Fei; his head is supposed to be buried under Zhufeng Pavilion east of the main hall.

More Historical Anecdotes

Sixty kilometres further downstream lies the attractive town of Fengjie. However, we did not stop

3

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there but at a place not far away called Baidicheng (White Emperor's City), a tourist 'must' close to the entrance to the Qutang Gorge.

Baidicheng lies on Baidi Hill, which is said to have been selected for its strategic location in the first century by Gong Xunshu, an official turned soldier. Its name comes from a legend that, in the year 25, white vapour in the shape of a dragon was seen rising from a nearby well. Gong thereupon declared himself the 'White Emperor'.

A flight of several hundred steps leads up to the gate of what is left of the city. We gasped our way up

Yangtse ferries transport people and goods along the river (1). Cooling off at Wanxian (4) in the heat of summer when even a vest is too much (5) (4 and 5 by Peng Zhenge). The towers built against the cliff (2) and a carved detail (3) at Shibaozhai.

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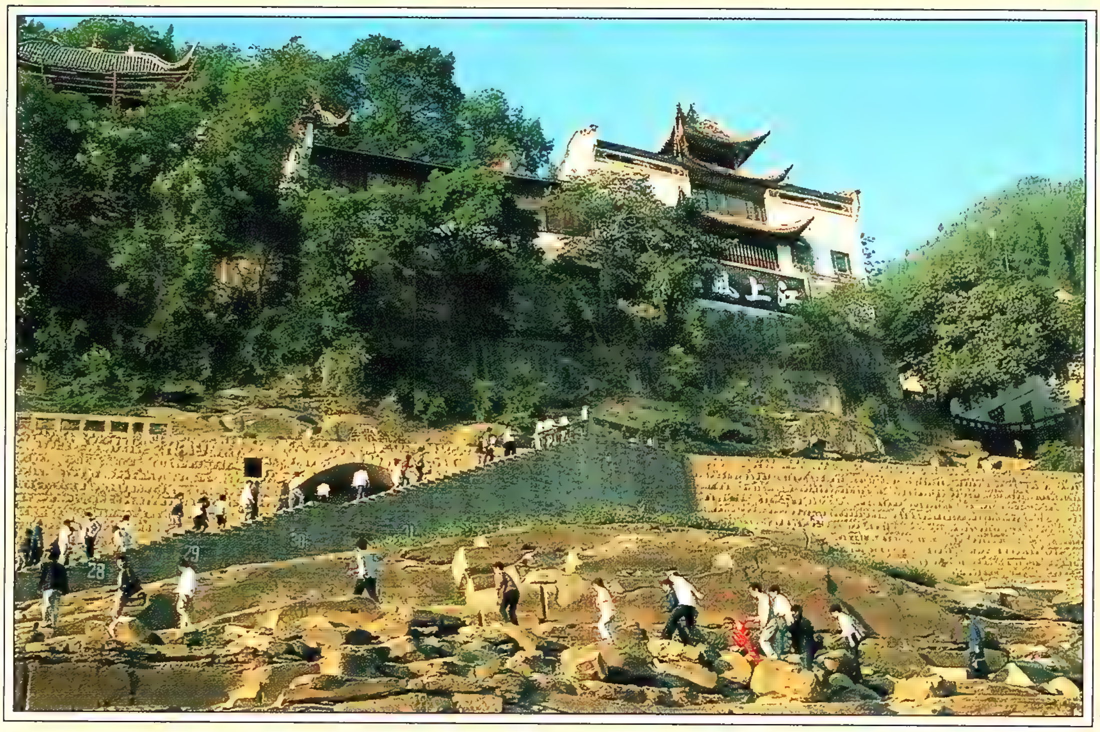
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At Yunyang, the flood waters once rose to the large inscription on Zhang Fei's shrine (1); temple interior (2) and tableau of Zhang Fei's murder (3). The steep approach to Baidicheng near Fengjie (5), where a hall contains the famous scene of Liu Bei entrusting his children to his prime minister (4).

them and finally made it to the main building dating from the Ming dynasty — Mingliang (Bright and Good) Hall.

Here there are many groups of modern life-size statues, all representing important historical personages of Shu. One group depicts Liu Bei, the first ruler of Shu, on his deathbed. According to the popular novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms,* written in the fourteenth century on the basis of ancient storytellers' scripts, in the year 222 Liu Bei, whose army had been routed by Wu, fell fatally ill in his despair. But before he breathed his last, he entrusted the affairs of state and the task of looking after his son and heir, Liu Shan, to the prime minister, Zhuge Liang, asking him to restore the power of Shu and unify China. This moving episode is said to have taken place right here at Baidicheng.

Yes, throughout our journey from Chengdu to Baidicheng, along the Minjiang and the Yangtse, we had been traversing places steeped in the lore, legendary and historical, of ancient Shu. It was an unusual and enriching experience, adding an extra spice to all we saw.

Translated by Ren Jiazhen

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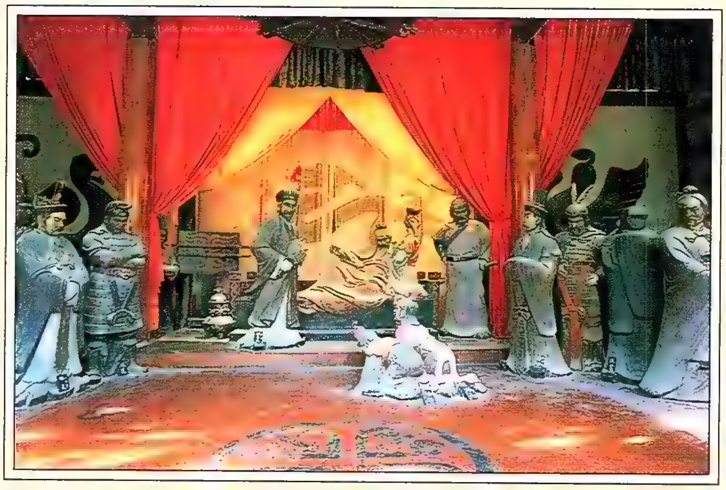
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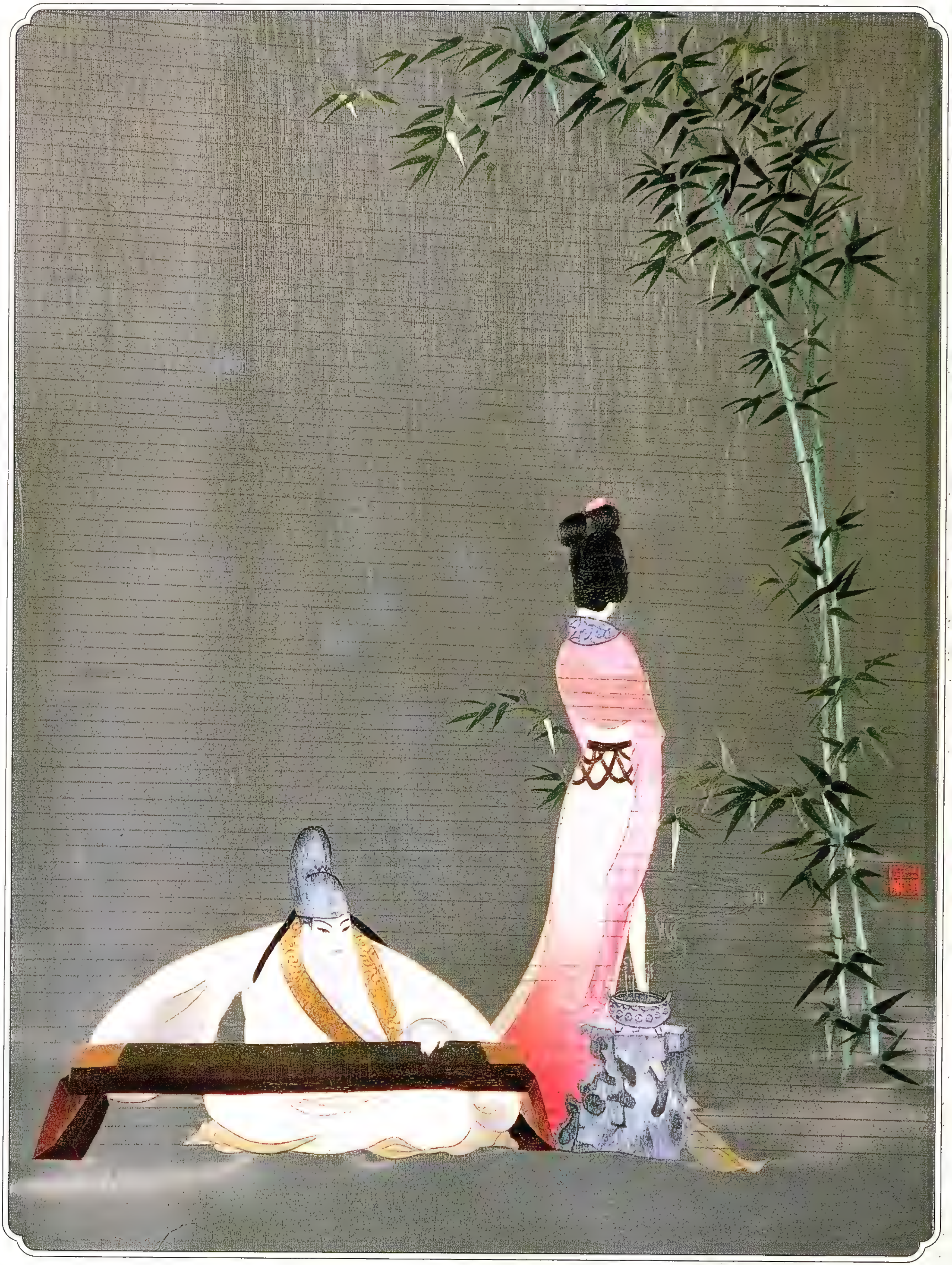


Embroidery Magic, Sichuan-Style

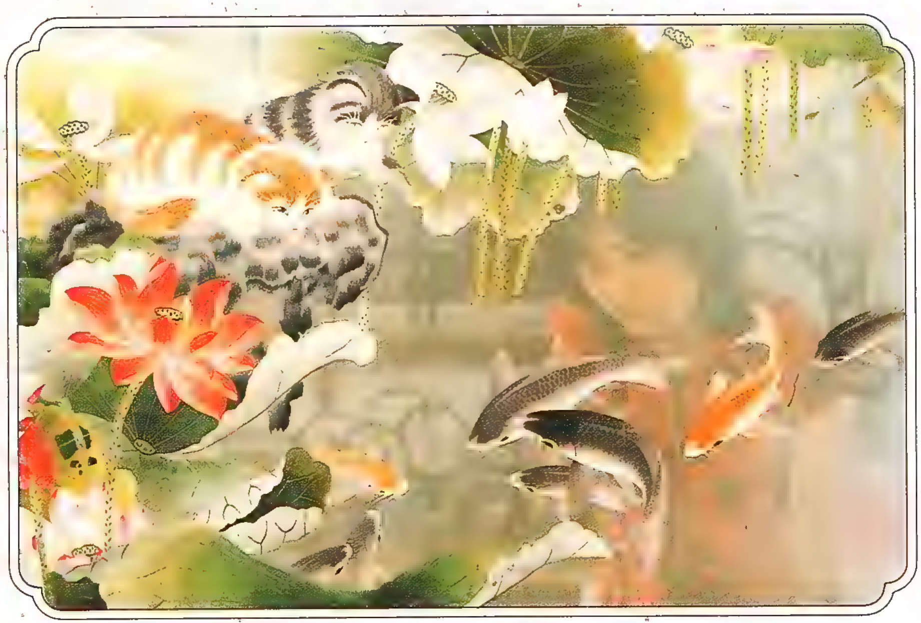
PHOTOS & TEXT BY CHAN YAT NIN

Embroidery, known as *xiuhua* or *zhahua* (both meaning 'making ornamental designs on cloth with a needle'), ranks as one of China's most refined and decorative crafts. It is also one of the oldest, examples having been found in tombs from as far back as the Spring and Autumn Period (722-481 B.C.).

Obviously, the style of embroidery — even the choice of stitches used — varies enormously from region to region in line with local customs, traditions and folklore. For centuries it depended on individual needlewomen, who produced items of primarily utilitarian importance. But then, during the early part of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), with a revival in the economy, a handicraft textile industry developed on a much broader scale.

It soon became possible to identify four major embroidery centres which stood out as a result of their technical expertise and their overall sophistication. These were Hunan and its strongly coloured embroidery using an astonishing range of stitches (see CHINA TOURISM no. 57), Guangdong's *yue*, famous for its gold and silver work on opera costumes, Jiangsu and the particularly delicate Suzhou embroidery (see CHINA TOURISM no. 93), and finally Sichuan and its Shu embroidery.

The Yangtse Basin has since antiquity produced silk. Spinning and weaving developed early here. The high level of general culture, with a concomitant love of beauty, transformed this handicraft into a genuine art form incorporating themes from history and literature. Known as Sichuan's 'treasure', embroidery was acknowledged as a specialized discipline under Emperor Xuanzong (reign dates 1821-1850) of the Qing. In Chengdu alone at that time there were between eighty and ninety workshops and countless embroiderers. Their output ranged from official garments, wedding robes and bed covers to screens and purely decorative scrolls and pictures. The embroideries shown here are contemporary works from Sichuan.



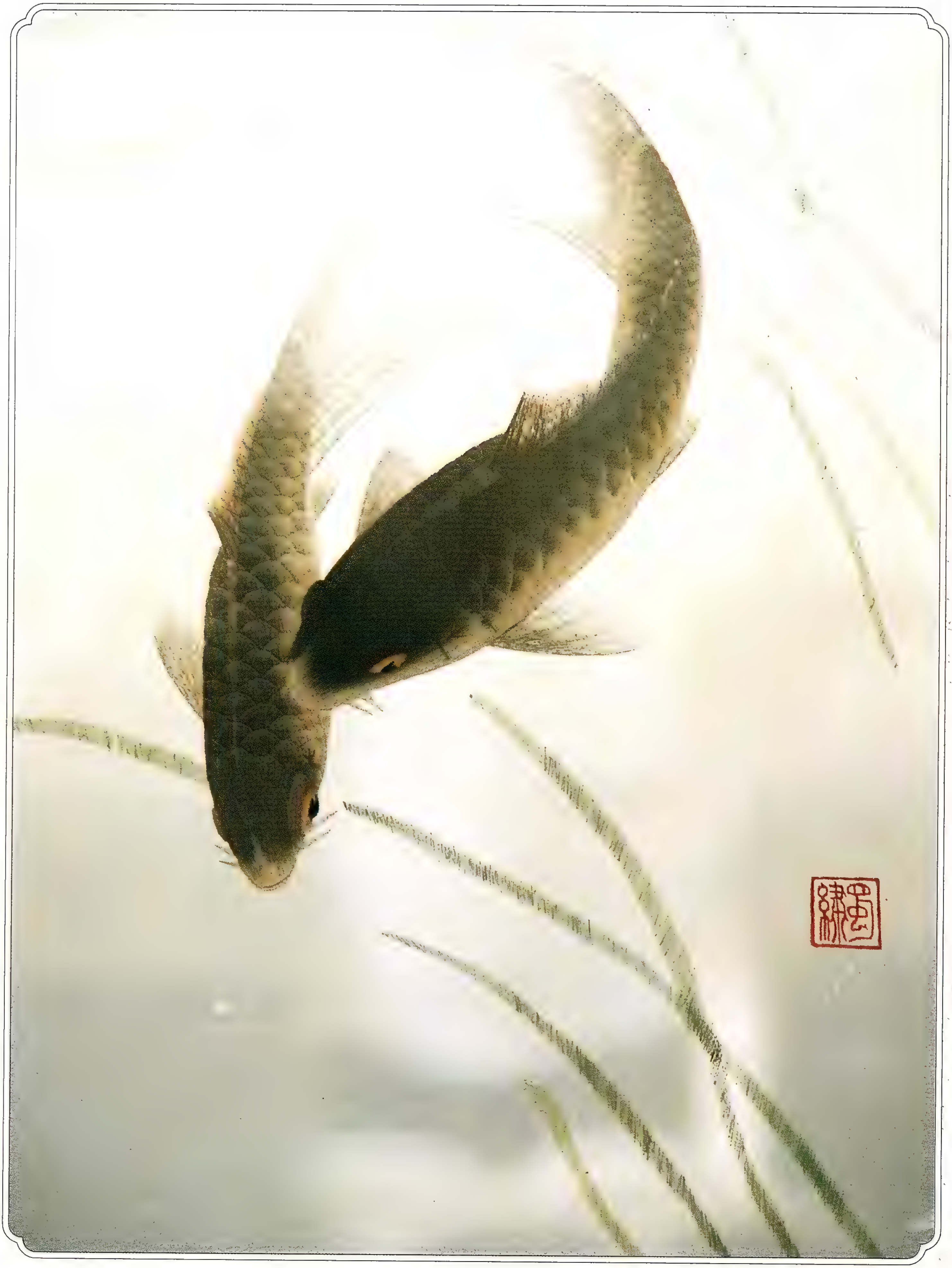
◁ ***Zhuo Wenjun and Sima Xiangru***

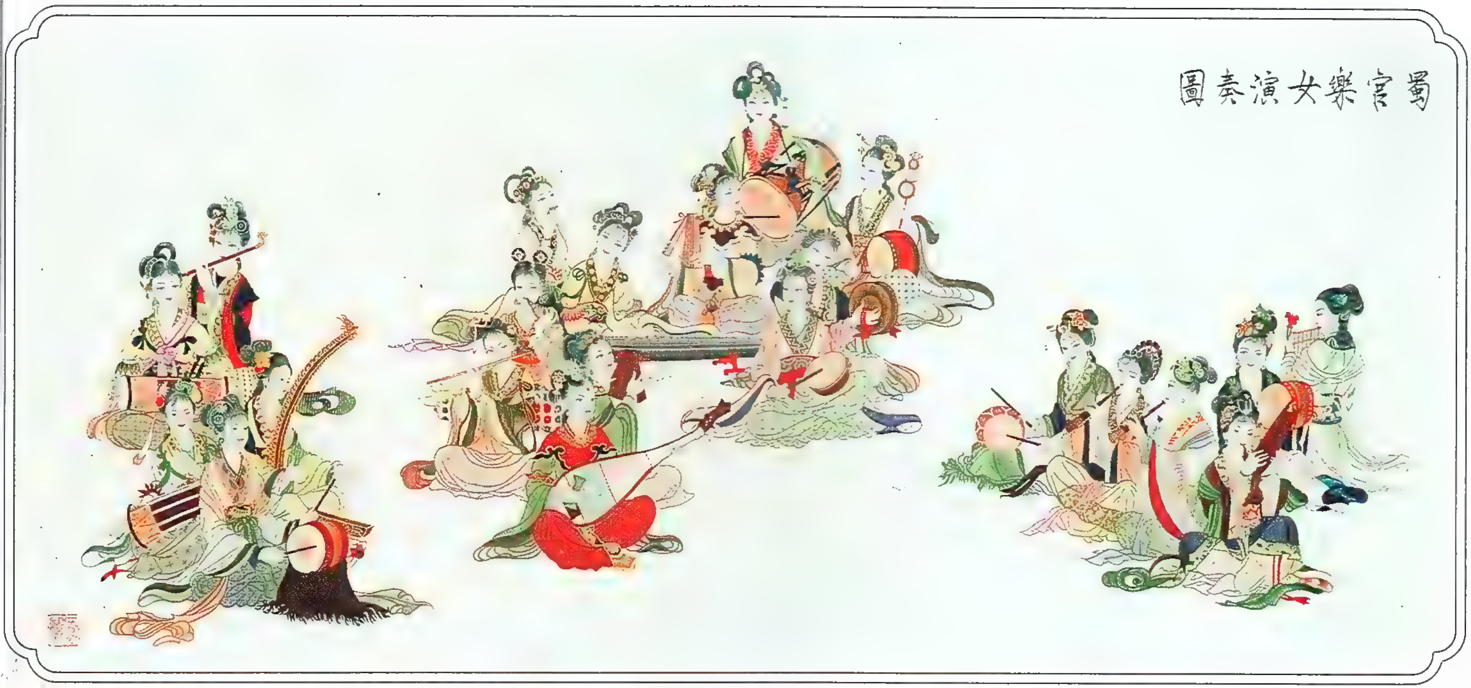
This fine double-sided embroidery portrays Sima Xiangru, a great scholar of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), playing a piece entitled Male Phoenix Coos Its Love for Its Mate *on the zither in order to win the heart of the beauty Zhuo Wenjun. This is an entirely appropriate subject for Shu embroidery as this celebrated love story took place in Sichuan.*

Well-balanced and elegant in composition, the piece is imbued with poetic grace. The colours used are fresh yet subtle.

△ ***Lotus Pond with Carp***

The gauze screen represents a lotus pond in which a school of carp flirts among lotus stems under the attentive and hopeful gaze of two young kittens. A complex design executed in realistic colours, this embroidery illustrates a complete mastery of perspective, and makes a highly effective room divider.





◁ Carp Among Water-Weeds

The carp is a favourite subject in Chinese art, since it is a traditional symbol for good luck and social advancement as well as advantage in business. It also stands for perseverance and steadfastness as it is said to ascend the rivers by jumping up the rapids.

This is a particularly subtle piece of embroidery; the colours are muted as though viewed underwater, with sunlight striking the surface. The weeds seem to quiver gently, swaying with the leisurely movements of the fish.

△ Female Musicians at the Shu Palace

The scene is a musical interlude in the palace of the ancient Kingdom of Shu (221-263). Twenty-two gorgeously attired palace maidens are performing for the pleasure of the court; we recognize various drums, cymbals, zither, pipa (lute), harp, bamboo flutes and sundry other woodwind instruments. The way in which the musicians are grouped on a 'blank' background is reminiscent of a certain type of Chinese painting, and in fact this painting-like effect is a famous variation in Sichuan embroidery.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

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SICHUAN SPECIAL

Ghost Festival in 'Ghost City'

PHOTOS BY CHEN FAN
ARTICLE BY HU YUE

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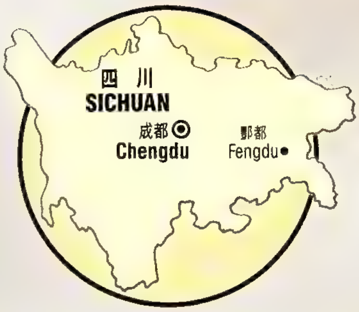
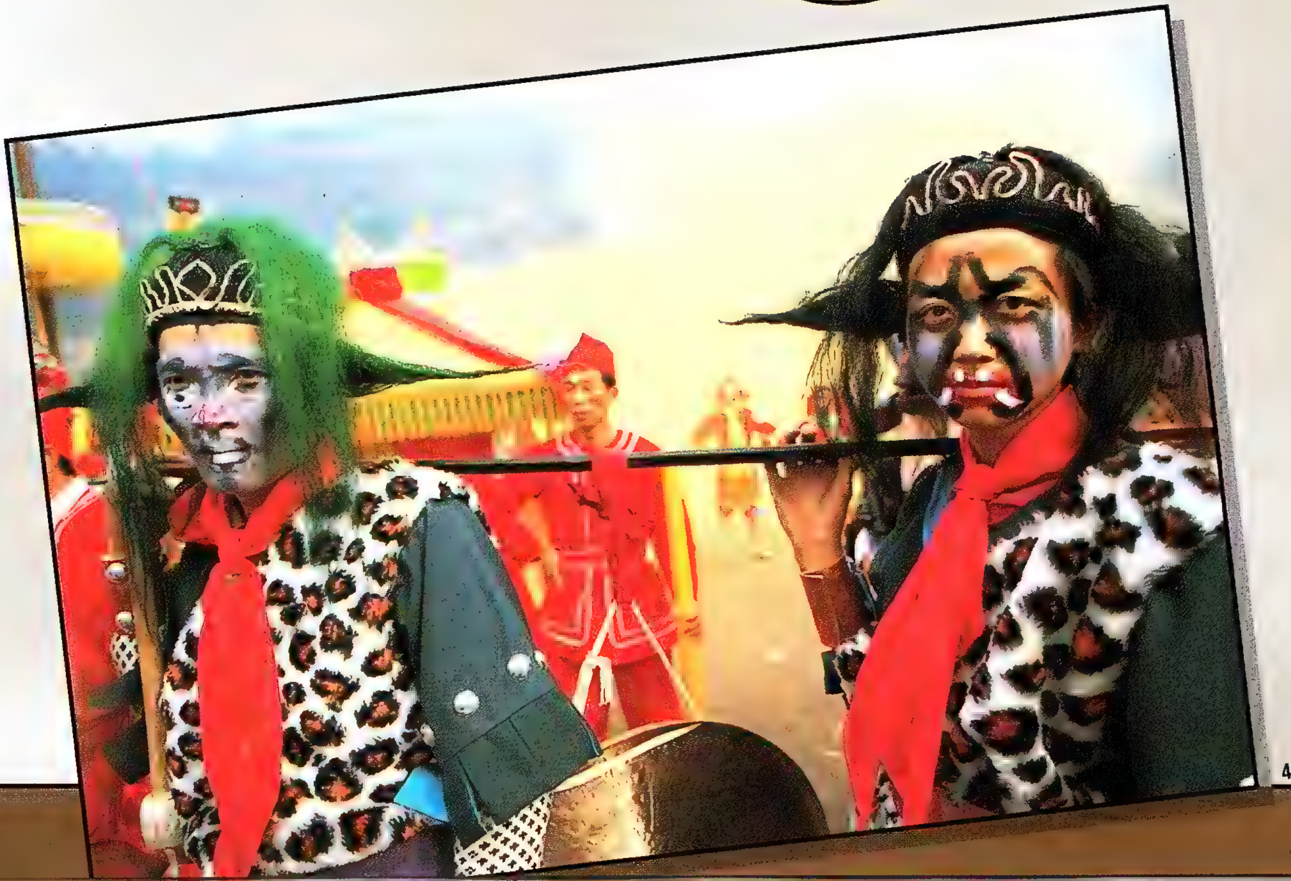

四 川
SICHUAN
成都
Chengdu
酆都
Fengdu

The yellow banner proclaims 'Ghost City Temple Fair' (1). The King of Hell's fearsome soul-snatchers and other minions (2 – 4).



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Phantoms, spirits, wraiths, demons, ghouls, spectres, poltergeists, living dead, walking skeletons, sundry indefinable monsters. . . . All these are referred to in Chinese generically as *gui*, probably best expressed quite simply as 'ghosts'.

The point is that not all the dead rest easy in their graves, in China any more than elsewhere. Some find eternal peace in the afterworld, tended by living relatives who keep them sweet-tempered with prayers and frequent offerings. Others, those who suffered a violent death or who were neglected or despised on earth, tend to linger in the place where they lived. They wander, suffering and hungry souls, on the fringes of the human world, seeking vengeance or recompense. And woe betide anyone who crosses their path. . . .

Dusk is 'their' time. They do not wear shrouds, drag clanking chains behind them or carry their head under their arm in the best tradition of European ghosts. In fact, they are rather difficult to distinguish from the living. But there are certain signs: they cast no shadow, even in bright sunlight, they shun the light, and they are terrified of noise and naked steel.

According to Chinese supernatural beliefs, passage into the other world is by no means automatic. All those who die must appear before the court of Yinwang, King of Hell. You would expect his kingdom to be somewhere far removed from the haunts of the living, buried deep in the bowels of the earth. But, in China, you would be mistaken.

In Sichuan there has long existed a 'ghost city' where the living and the dead rub shoulders. This is the town of Fengdu, located on the north bank of the Yangtse 172 kilometres northeast of Chongqing. It is more than three thousand years old. How did it gain its reputation? Quite simply, as the result of an error of interpretation. Legend suggests that Yin Changsheng, great-grandfather of Emperor Hedi of the Eastern Han (25-220), and another official by the name of Wang Pingfang came to live on a hill in Fengdu in their pursuit of a Taoist way of life. As adepts, they honed their skills and their moral character until they finally became immortals. Much later, their names coalesced as a result of repeated story-telling into Yinwang, which of course means 'King of Hell'. And Fengdu accordingly became 'ghost city' . . . as one might say, hell on earth!

Over time, as the legend grew in popularity, many Buddhist and Taoist monasteries and temples were erected there since ghosts, just like humans, need a place to live. At one time Fengdu had seventy such religious buildings.

Spectral Procession

In April 1988, Fengdu was the venue for a special Ghost City Temple Fair, intended to act as a showcase for the customs and habits of the 'ghost city' and present it to the outside world.

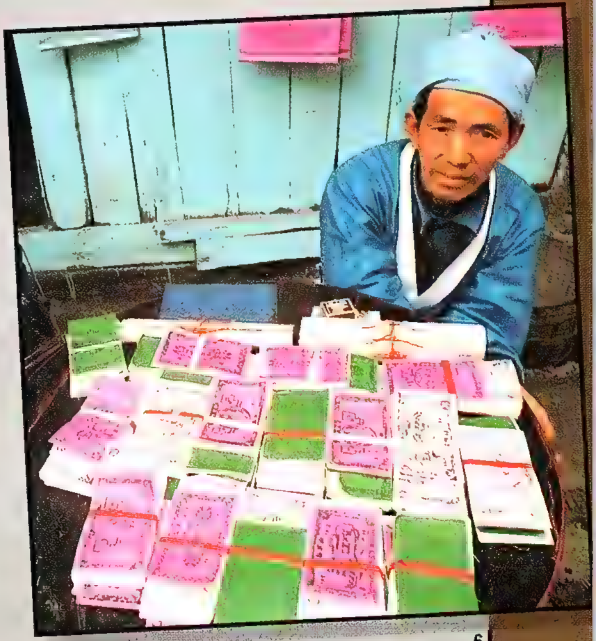
I reached Fengdu by boat along the Yangtse from Chongqing. Even in the early morning, shortly after my boat berthed, the town centre was already packed with people come to enjoy the fair. I squeezed my way through the crowds, hoping to make it in time for the opening ceremony. With so many people milling around in the town, I couldn't help peering sideways occasionally just to reassure myself that some of the more unprepossessing characters I passed really were throwing a shadow.

At the temple where the fair was being held, firecrackers were popping wildly — presumably intended to frighten off any 'real' ghosts, just in case . . . . As yellow clouds of smoke swirled dramatically around, the ghastly parade of ghosts and demons began. These were not ghosts in the Western sense but officials of the underworld which mirrors the very strict hierarchy of imperial China, with ministers, judges, bailiffs, runners and so on. And, of these, the most frightening were those in charge of capturing souls at death — Ox-Head and Horse-Face — beings who in their lifetime are said to have, respectively, eaten beef (horrors!) and ill-treated horses. Armed with clubs or prongs, they rushed menacingly at the spectators, many of whom scattered, screaming at the top of their voice. The king of the underworld and his consort were of course also there, presiding over the proceedings, and accompanied by the black and white messengers of death.

In 'Hell Street'

I followed the crowds to Yinsi or Hell Street. It is said that ghosts used to come here to do business and make purchases in former days, especially around dusk. Since, as we mentioned earlier, it is practically impossible to identify ghosts, the merchants of Yinsi Street would place a basin filled with water on their shop counter. Genuine coins would sink to the bottom of the basin, while the pseudo-money from hell — being weightless — would float on top.

5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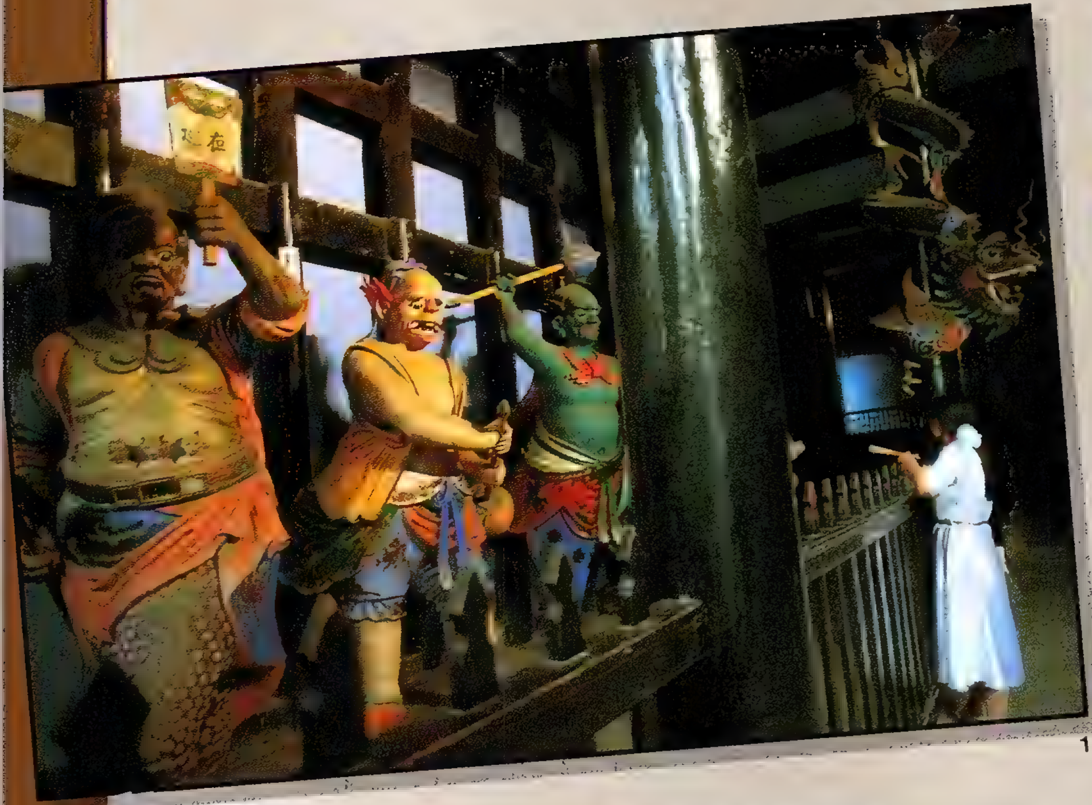
The Yinsi Street I saw was of course just a reconstruction for the purposes of the temple fair, with nothing frightening or strange about it. The only unusual thing was that the shops were decorated in the style of sundry dynasties, with tradesmen and salespeople dressed in costumes to match. One elderly man in clothes of the Song dynasty (960-1279) was selling red, green and white bank notes said to be issued by the Ming Tong Bank in hell in minimum denominations of fifty million yuan. Such 'hell money' is a common sight in many Chinese communities, even outside China, as it is burnt — along with paper effigies of many

People flock to Hell Street (1), where a small teashop offers the tea of oblivion (2) and 'hell money' can be purchased (6). Elegant architecture and calligraphy (3), and a devilish imp lurking under the roof (4) (2 and 4 by Si Hai). Whoever succeeds in balancing the iron top on its side is said to be loyal (5) (3 and 5 by Chan Yat Nin).

other material assets such as houses and cars — to accompany the deceased into the afterlife for his or her use there.

The street was covered with a green-grey canvas awning to provide shade from the sun. Colourful bunting and banners proclaiming 'Underworld Snack Bar', 'Underworld Restaurant', 'Brisk trade, great source of revenue' and so on were hung from branches and the roofs of the small shops on either side of the street. The goods sold in the shops were traditional snacks and local handicrafts and products. I noticed fermented beancurd, Mengpo tea, longevity cakes, spicy chicken, canned chicken feet, glutinous rice dumplings and hot pickled mustard tubers, as well as many foods associated in some way with ghosts.



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Probably the most unusual and the most typical for Fengdu was Mengpo (Lady of Dreams) Tea. This tea is sweet and refreshing in taste, and is said to have the power to make one forget all the sorrows of the past. The Lady of Dreams sits at the exit from hell and forces all passing souls to drink her brew so that they will be unable to remember anything about their stay in the underworld during their next reincarnation on earth.

Hell's Hell!

As dusk fell, with the thinning of the crowds in the streets, Fengdu regained something of its original atmosphere. The town is built between the river and the so-called Mingshan. One of the meanings of *ming* is 'netherworld', while *shan* is 'hill', so Mingshan means 'Netherworld Hill'. In past centuries many temples and monasteries were built there since it seemed an ideal place for ghosts to congregate.

I started up the hill. Four large characters inscribed on an archway reading 'Netherworld of Ghost City' met my eyes. Buying a ten-*fen* ticket, I entered the 'netherworld' by crossing Naihe Bridge, shaped like the smooth, curved back of a fish. Following custom, I crossed the low bridge in three steps, no more, no less; it is said that if you do not do this, you might be reborn as something other than human on your next reincarnation!

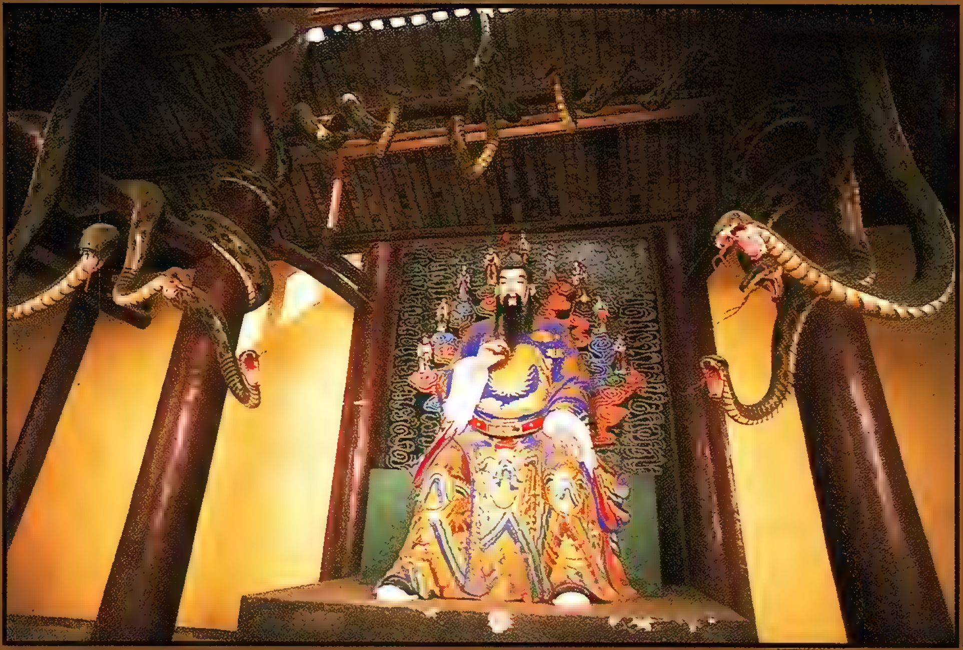
The Gate of Hell is said to be the first pass on the way into the netherworld. A judge sits there, assessing the deceased's doings — good or bad — during his time in the world of humans. Afterwards the wraith is issued with a passport so that it can proceed to Tianzi Hall for punishment. It is said that, even if a criminal manages to escape detection in this world, he cannot escape chastizement in the eighteenth level of hell after death. Thus the popular saying: 'Good will be rewarded with good, evil with evil.'

Tianzi Hall, the main palace of the underworld, was the residence of Yinwang, but also the seat of his implacable court of justice. This building dates from the time of Empress Wu Zetian (reign dates 690-705) of the Tang dynasty. In the dim light of the hall, a statue of a monstrous fanged demon guarded the gate as I entered. On both sides were depicted the eighteen levels of hell (strict Taoism generally only admits to ten), in which the severity of the punishment increases as one descends. Expressive mouldings showed evildoers undergoing the torments of hell: some were being beaten by goblins with iron staves, others impaled, flayed, dismembered, disembowelled, thrown into a pot of boiling oil, etc. The idea was to fill spectators with terror and presumably make them mend their ways before it was too late!

Beyond Tianzi Hall lies Wangxiang (Looking at Home) Tower. It is said to have been built so that the deceased could take one last look at the human world before passing through the Gate of Hell. The whitewashed tower looks rather like a lighthouse from a distance. Climbing the steps, all I found there was a telescope and a marvellous view down to the Yangtse at the foot of the hill.

Translated by Yu Zai Xin

Denizens of the underworld in Tianzi Hall (1) and Yuhuang Hall (2). To each his deserts (5) (1, 2 and 5 by Chan Yat Nin). Nine-Snake Hall (4) and Wangxiang Tower, from which the deceased could take a last look at the world (3).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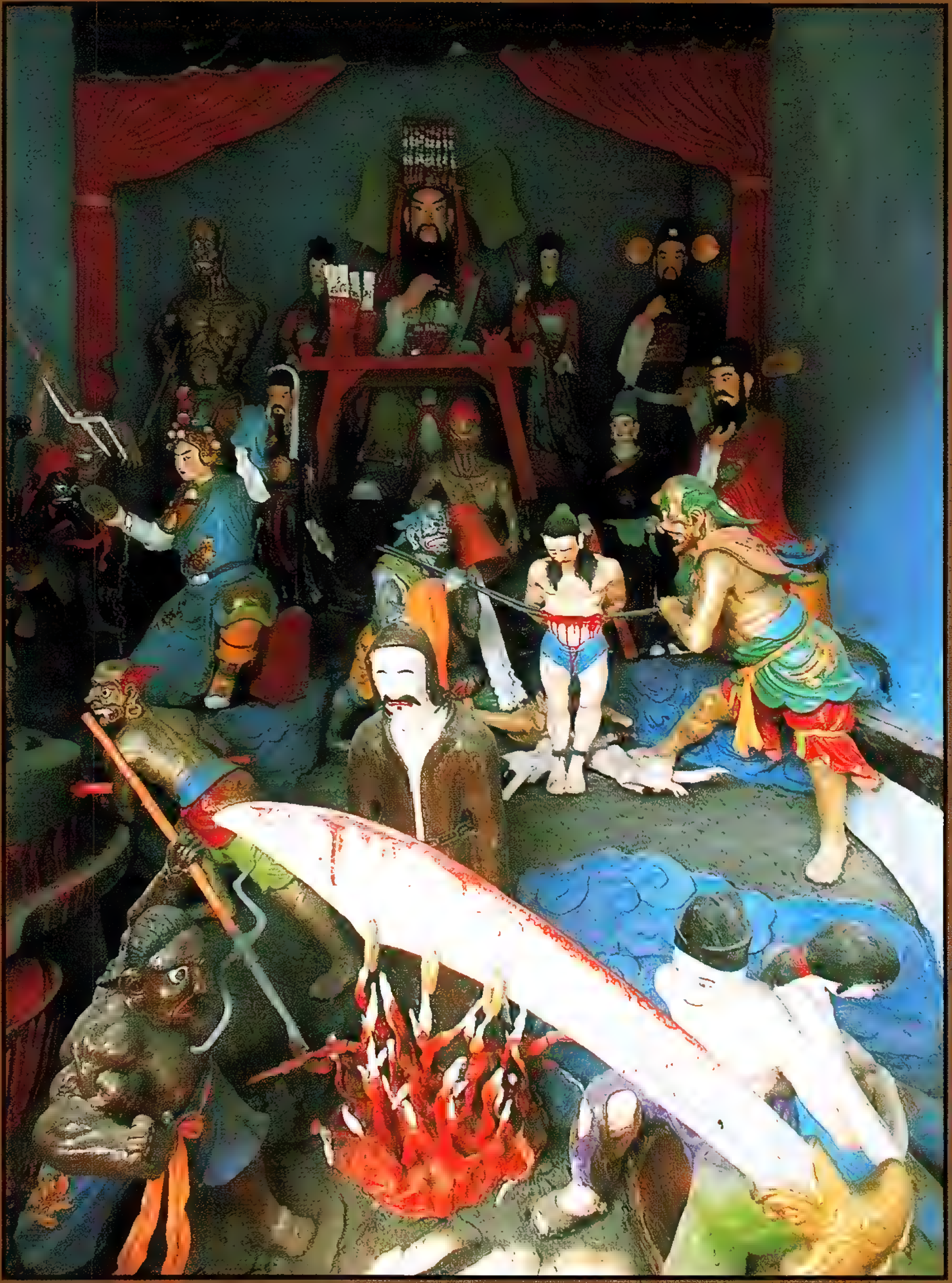
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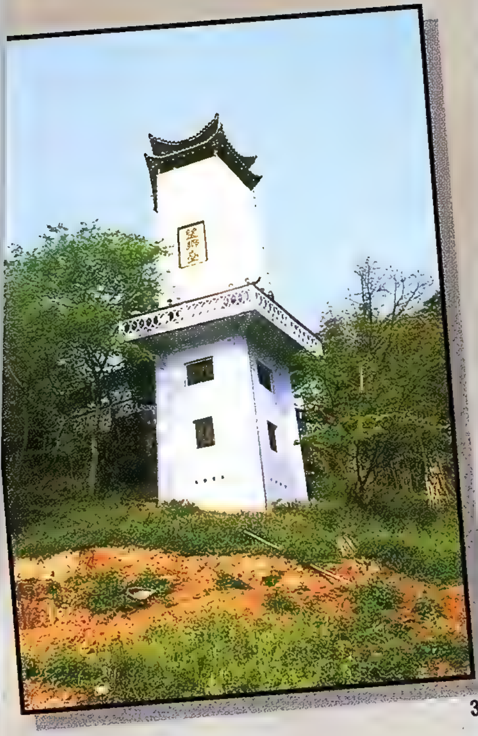
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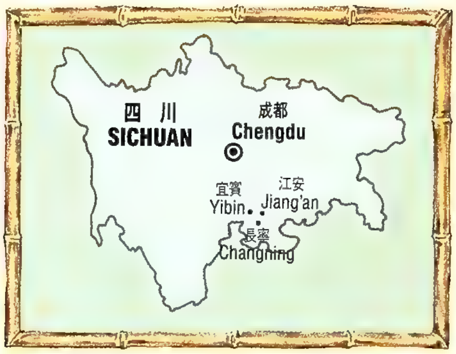
1

Southern Sichuan's 'Sea of Bamboo'

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY ZHANG ZHONGLONG

In this region of luxuriant bamboos (1), village houses are largely built of bamboo (2).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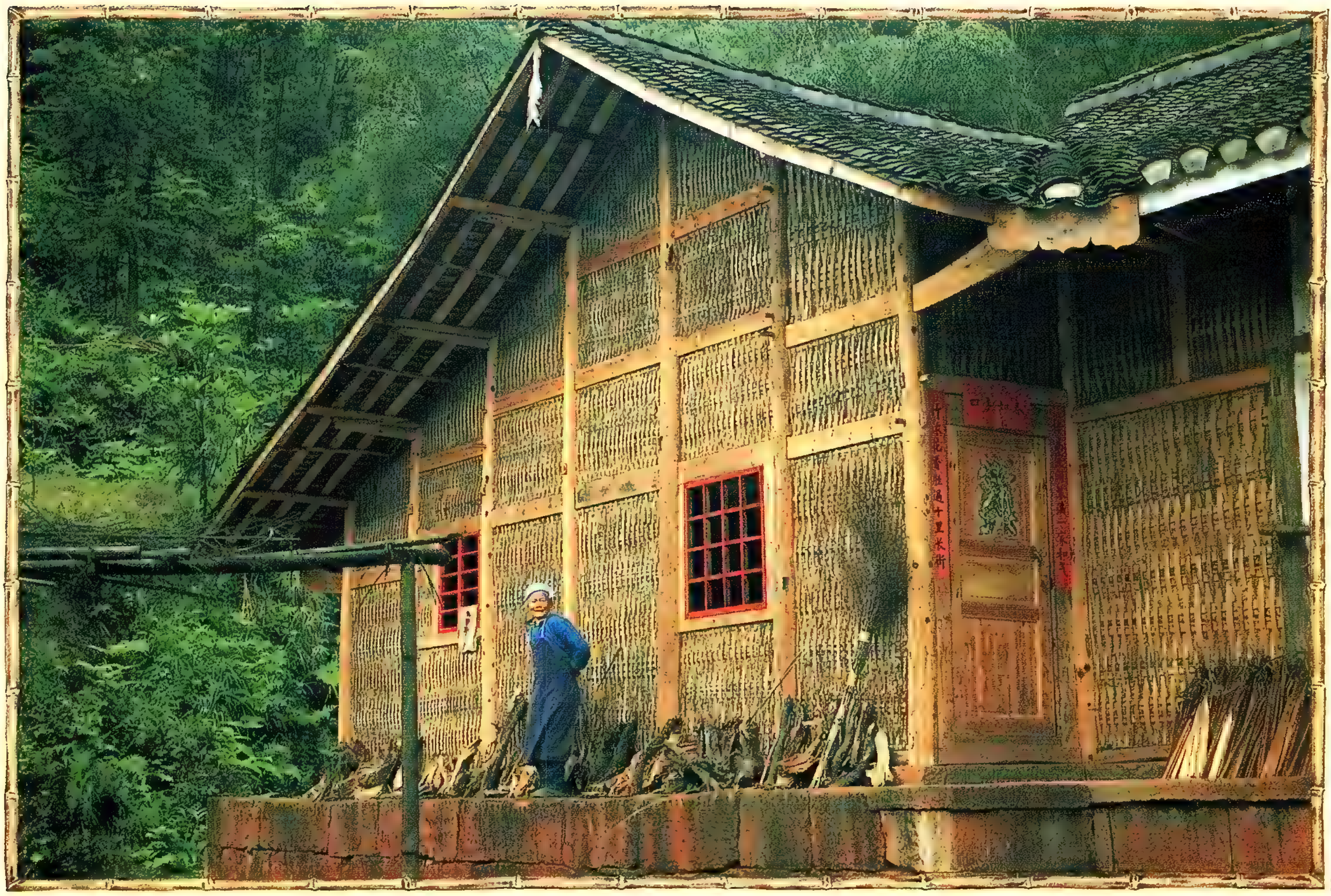
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There is an ancient Chinese saying, often attributed to the Song-dynasty poet Su Dongpo (1037-1101): 'One can live without meat, but not without bamboo.' One of the all-time favourite subjects for both painters and poets, although it flowers rarely — sometimes only once every sixty or so years — the bamboo's constant greenness makes it a symbol of youth and immutability. Not only do the Chinese people love to have the graceful plant growing somewhere near their home, they also make extremely good use of it.

The possible applications of bamboo are endless. The succulent young shoots are eaten fresh, pickled or (nowadays) canned. The woody stems or culms are used to make all sorts of things. Individual sections of sufficient diameter make water and cooking containers, as well as brush-holders. Stout poles are used in construction and to make irrigation pipes or split to make floorboards and rafters. Small sections of large stems can be used for roofing, while slender bamboo stems or slivers of split stems are interwoven to produce wall panels and sundry household items. Fans, window blinds, baskets and trays, chopsticks, rice steamers, mats, musical instruments, paper, handles for brushes — even traditional cricket and bird cages ... they are all made from the versatile bamboo. It would be no exaggeration to say that no other plant can compare with or replace bamboo in the eyes of the Chinese.

1

2

Sichuan produces more bamboo than any other province in China, while the counties of Jiang'an and Changning near the River Yangtse in the southern part of the province jointly form what is known as the 'Sea of Bamboo'. This ever-green 'sea' — mainly of the *Phyllostachys* genus — extends without break or hindrance over some three hundred hills, covering an area of 4,666 hectares.

Whips Transformed

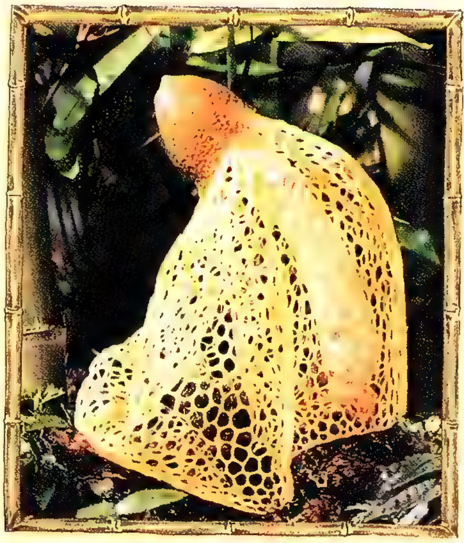
From Yibin in southern Sichuan, we headed southeast for sixty kilometres by bus to the county town of Changning. There we changed to a motor boat. Taking to a minor tributary of the Yangtse, we travelled upstream to our destination Wanlingjing (10,000 Green Hills).

Legend has it that during the Three

Kingdoms Period (220-280) Zhuge Liang, renowned strategist of the Kingdom of Shu, led troops into this area at a time when the weather was particularly hot. Many horses died of thirst, so the soldiers threw their now useless whips on the ground in disgust. Later the whips took root and grew into verdant bamboos, providing welcome shade for travellers.

The luxuriance of the bamboos here is, of course, the result of the environmental conditions. The hills in the area are between six hundred and one thousand metres above sea-level. The weather is mild; in winter the temperature only ever falls below zero for a few days, and in summer the temperature never rises above 30°C. In addition, there is plenty of rain and the soil is acidic, with a high nitrogen and iron content. All these factors produce excellent conditions for the growth of bamboos.

There is a rich variety of bamboo species.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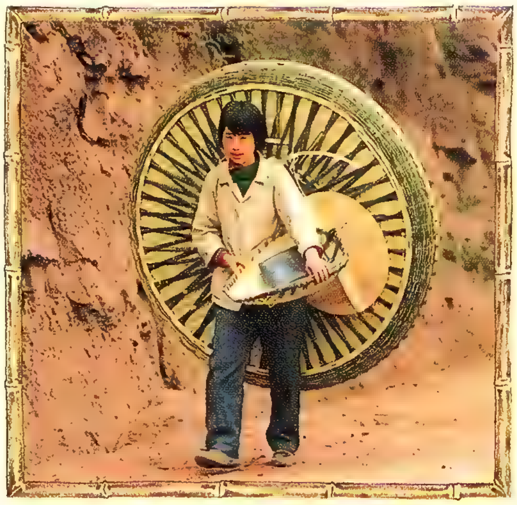
Apart from *nan* bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*), there is also spotted bamboo, spiny bamboo, black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*), fishpole bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*), and so on....

Sea of Green

It was the height of summer when we were there and the rainy season had just arrived, so the air was humid and heavy and it was misty.

The vivid green shines through, even in the snow (1). An ancient stone God of Bamboo seen near Jiang'an (2). The delicate and rare bamboo fungus (3), and examples of everyday articles of bamboo: ingenious coatstand (5) and giant sieve (4) (1, 3 and 4 by Yi Wen).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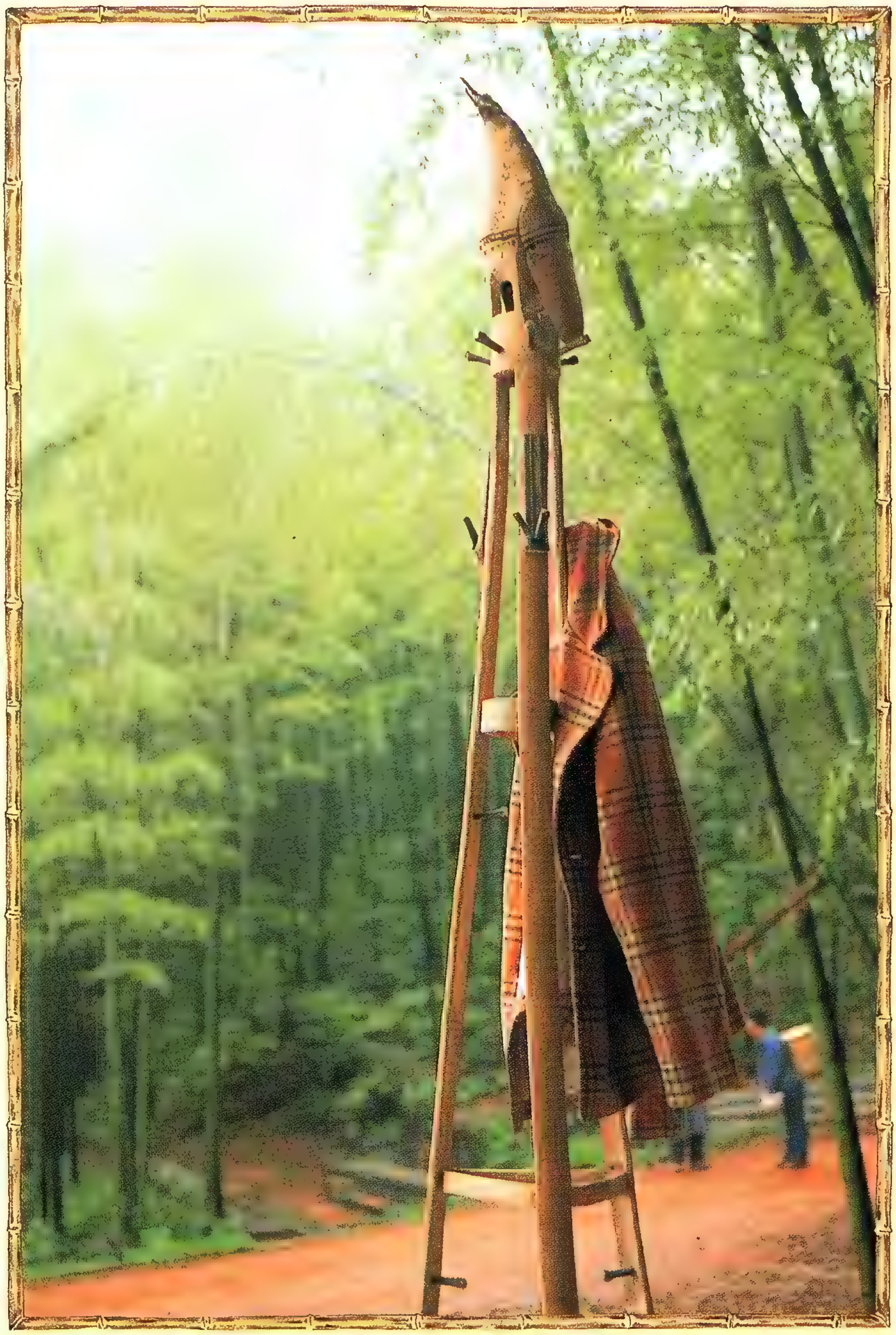
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We followed a zigzag gravel path deep into the bamboo groves. The bamboos rose more than ten metres into the mist. Sunlight filtered through occasionally, but it was dark and somewhat mysterious inside the forest. We felt as though we had entered a traditional Chinese landscape painting.

On the edge of the 'Sea of Bamboo' we came to a cliff, the location of a cave two hundred metres wide and over ten metres deep known as the 'Fairy Home'. Here you can get a fine panoramic view.

We leaned against the railings outside the cave. In front of us stretched an immensity of green bamboo. Clouds shrouded the endless series of hills in the distance and seemed to surge towards us. The breeze caressed my face as it made the bamboo tops dance, producing a rhythmic swell of sound almost like waves crashing on a beach.

Living Amidst Bamboos

Villages are scattered in among the bamboo forest. Needless to say, the local people live from bamboo.

As we were on our way to visit one particular village, we met a girl with a large bamboo sieve on her back and a winnowing fan in one hand. Even the farm tools in this neighbourhood are made from bamboo! Volunteering to act as our guide, she led us to the village along a tranquil path.

3

2

Before long we reached a house surrounded by bamboos. The fence was made of slivers of bamboo. With the permission of the occupant, we carefully pushed the front door open and entered the house. We were amazed to see the variety of bamboo furniture it contained — chairs, tables, beds, chests, etc. Noticing our inquiring look, the man of the house explained: 'Living among bamboos, we obviously make the best possible use of them.'

We continued our exploration. In the living room, our host offered us a bamboo fungus (*Dictyophora phalloidea*), a rare fungus which grows in bamboo groves and can only be found in late summer and early autumn. It looks rather like a lacy bamboo shoot, and is a prized delicacy.

The man told us: 'We earn our living weaving bamboo strips into all kinds of wares and handicrafts. And we eat bamboo shoots every day!'

Bamboo Arts and Crafts

Later, we went to see a factory in Jiang'an which produces all sorts of bamboo arts and crafts, both rustic and sophisticated. Among the more surprising items on display were inward-curving bamboo sections which had been varnished and carved to make brush-holders for scholars and painters. Could this shape be natural? In fact, the exaggerated curvature is the result of a special cultivation technique. A strip of bamboo is tied tightly around a bamboo section to restrict its growth; in the end it solves its problem by growing inwards.

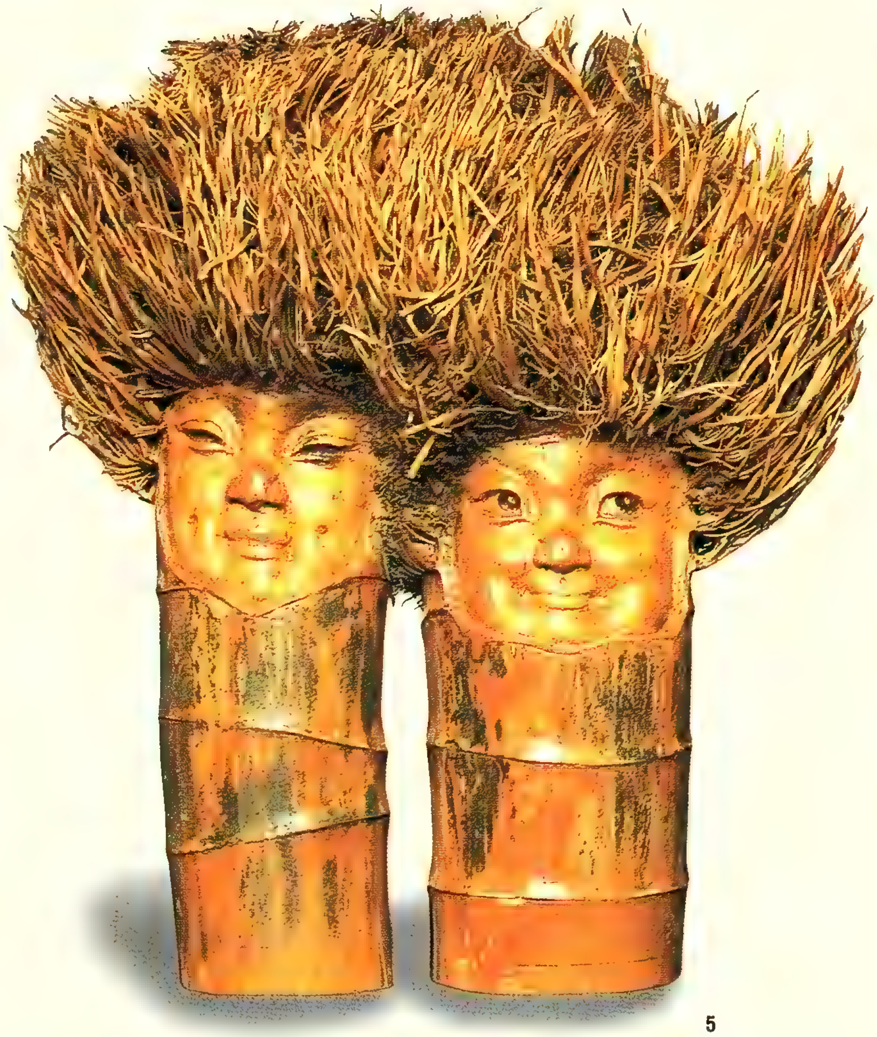
Also very attractive are the 'sculptures' from bamboo roots, an art branch with a history of over a thousand years in China. One craftsman told me that he has to search long and hard to find a root which is suitable to turn into a piece of decorative art. First he has to look for a withered bamboo, then dig down for about a metre to recover the root. If the root turns out to be of a shape which appeals to him or from which he thinks he can fashion something, he takes it home and treats it to prevent rotting and insect infestation. He then allows his imagination free rein.

He showed us several examples of his work, illustrating the skilful way in which he had utilized the naturally rough texture of the root mass for the hair, whilst carving the root's smooth parts to produce the final effect.

This trip to southern Sichuan certainly made me realize the extreme versatility and usefulness of the bamboo plant.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Judiciously trimmed, this bamboo root is perfect as Jigong, the legendary Mad Monk (1), while the double root inspires an amusing 'twins' carving (5). Bamboo pieces are assembled to produce sweet containers (2), but brush-holders are simply individual segments of bamboo — whether the bamboo's shape is specially cultivated (3) or an unusual natural formation (4).



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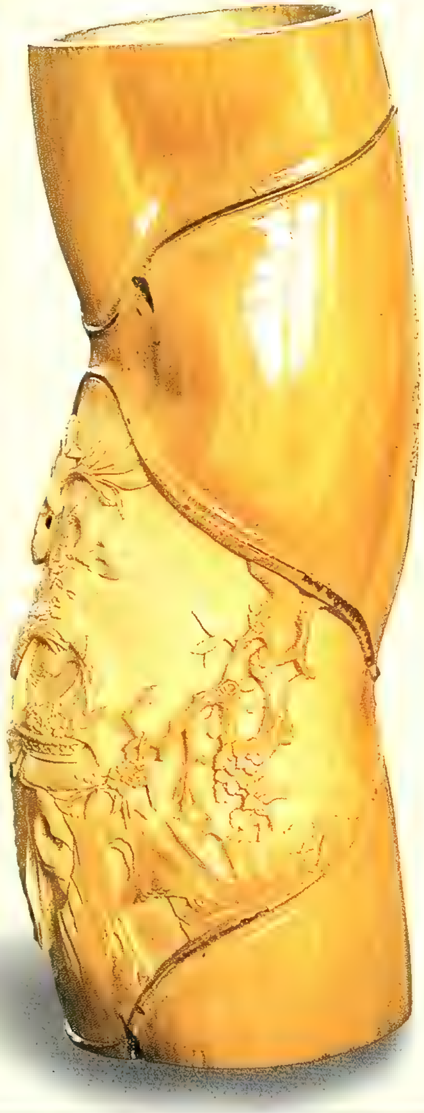

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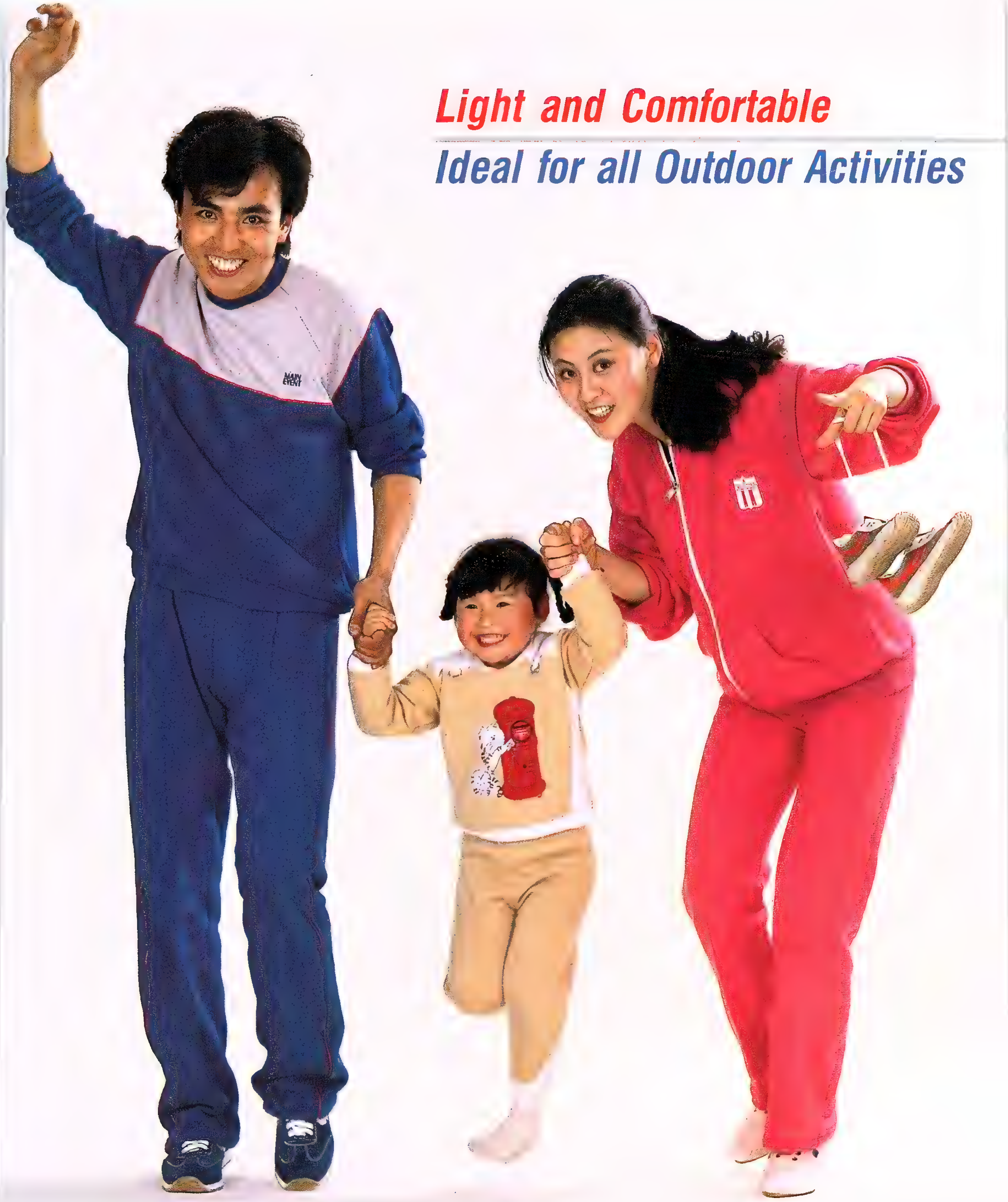
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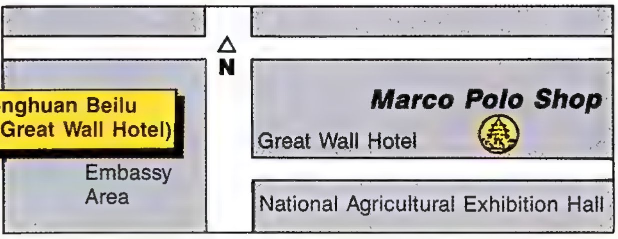
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蜻蜓牌玩具是北京市玩具工業公司所屬八個玩具廠生產，有金屬、塑料、木製、長毛絨娃娃等各類兒童玩具約四百種，其中八音娃娃有五種中國不同民族造型和洋娃娃，設計美觀、大方，做工精細，裝有八音機芯，音色清晰、圓潤，在和諧的樂聲中翩翩起舞。八音電視根據兒童心理設計，伴隨着樂曲聲屏幕上連續出現藍天、大海、帆船、一羣天眞活潑可愛的兒童，具有強烈的立體感。各種發條玩具造型多樣，設計新穎，動作靈活多變，兼有娛樂實用價值。

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北京蜻蜓牌各種玩具，由北京市輕工業品進出口公司經營出口。

"DRAGON-FLY" toys are manufactured by eight subsidiary factories of the Beijing Toy Industrial Corporation. A comprehensive range of toys made of metal, plastic, wood and plush is available. There are over 400 kinds to choose from, including lively musical dolls representing dancers clad in the costumes of various nationalities.

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Kites are traditional Chinese folk toys. The corporation handles the export of more than 80 varieties of kites ranging from 100-metre dragon kites to small black swallow kites.

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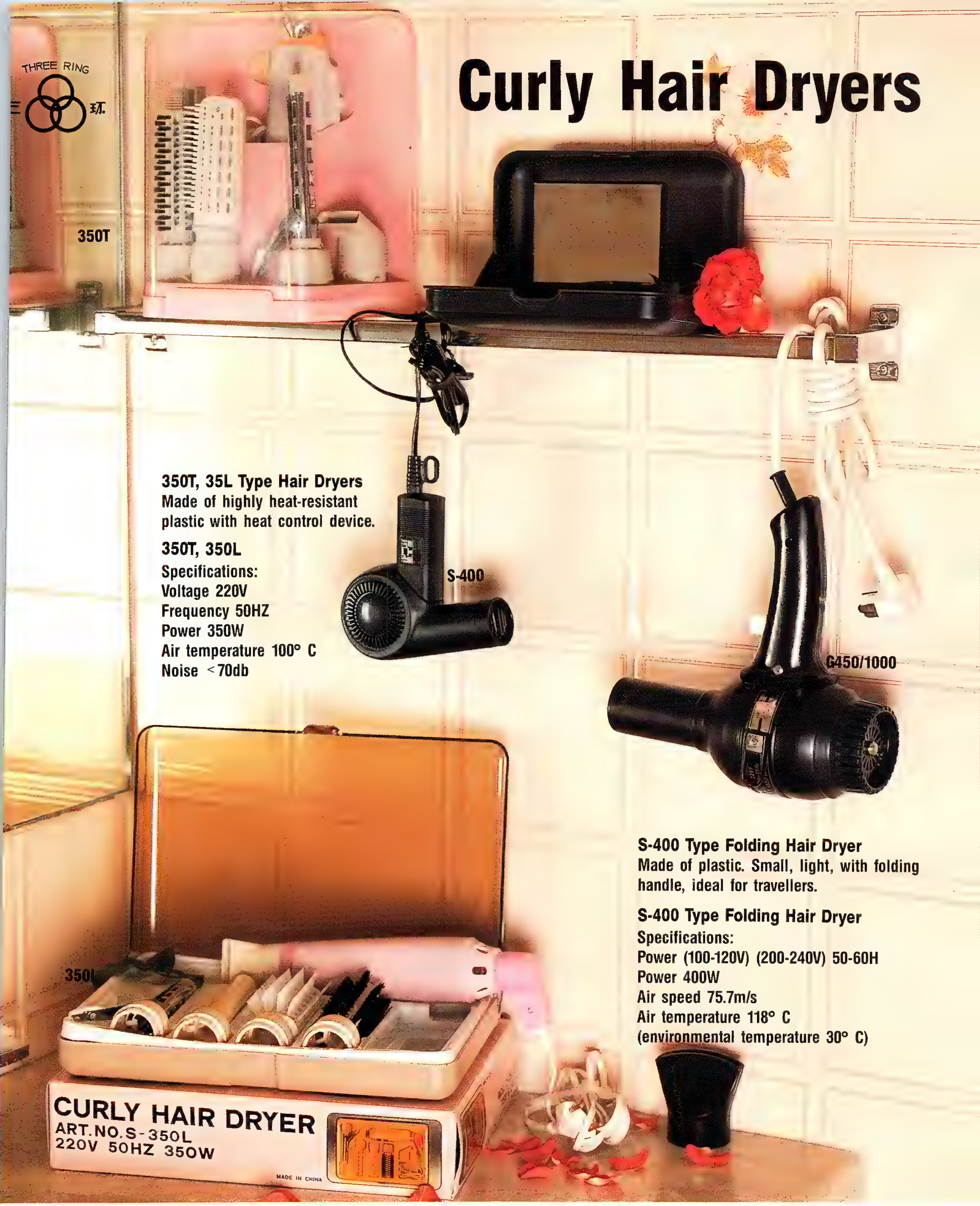
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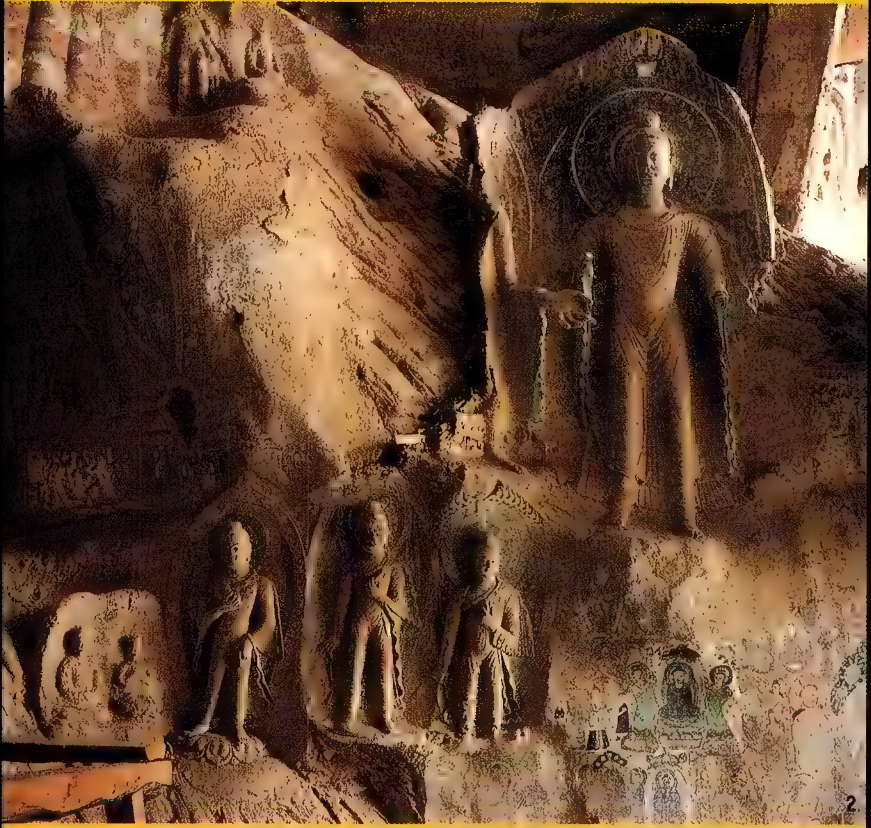
169

THE BINGLING GROTTOES



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AND THEIR MANY BUDDHAS

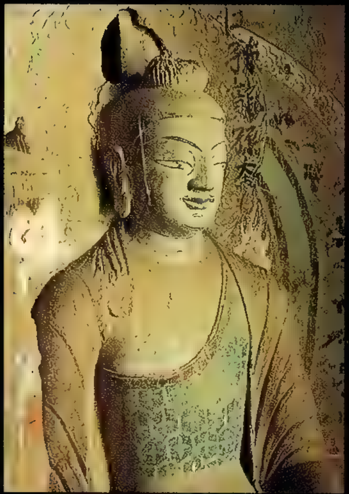
PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY GU YUE

Among China's earliest and best-preserved examples of Buddhist cave-temples, the Bingling Grottoes lie in a valley on Mount Xiaojishi on the north bank of the Huanghe (Yellow River) in Yongjing County, Gansu Province. With Buddhas occupying four levels of niches and grottoes hewn out of the cliffs, the site extends over two kilometres. It is accessible only from the river, and then only when the water level is sufficiently high; during the winter months the water is too low for boats.

The name Bingling is a transcription of the Tibetan phrase meaning '100,000 Buddhas'. According to historical records, the start of work on the grottoes can be securely dated to the first year (420) of the Jianhong reign of the Western Qin, a state of the Sixteen States Period established by the Qifu clan, a branch of the nomadic Xianbei tribe. Another branch of the Xianbei founded the Northern Wei (386-534), which was responsible for the more famous Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang further to the northwest and the later Longman Caves at Luoyang in Henan.

Work continued on the Bingling Grottoes for a period of around 1,500 years, reflecting the varied styles and features of different epochs; the majority of the complex in fact dates from the Tang dynasty (618-907) when Buddhism enjoyed particular favour.

The original count of 195 niches and grottoes has been reduced to 183 as a result of erosion by the elements, but also by damage caused by the Huanghe's floods as well as — more recently — the rise in water level resulting from the construction of the Liujiaxia Dam downstream. In all, the complex has 679 Buddhas, the tallest twenty-seven metres, the smallest twenty centimetres.



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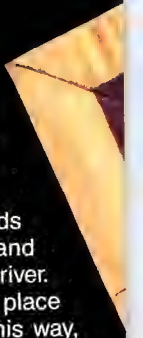
Overall view of Grotto No. 169 (1), its moulded Amitabha Buddha (3) and other Western Qin carvings and murals on the north wall (2). A warrior or guardian figure from Grotto No. 3 (4).



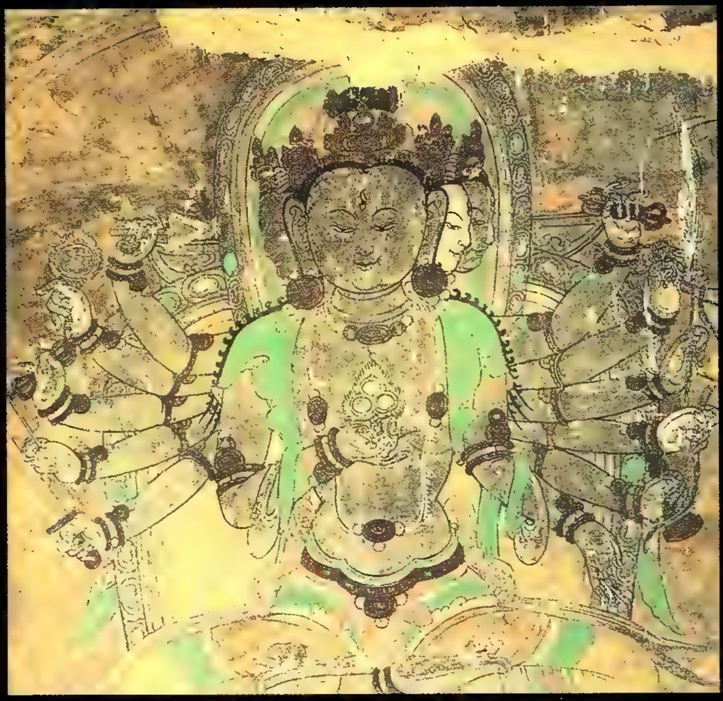
On the Silk Road

About 1,400 years ago, the Western Qin built a bridge across the Huanghe near the grottoes, since they lay on a much-travelled trading route. It is said that this was the way the famous monk Fa Xian went to India after setting out on his fifteen-year search for Buddhist scriptures in the year 399.

The bridge took three years to complete, but afterwards became more or less an obligatory place for merchants and others travelling along the Silk Road to cross the great river. Driven by a growing trend to study Buddhism in India, its place of origin, more and more monks and pilgrims passed this way, stopping off at the Bingling Grottoes and adding to the site's fame as well as contributing to the propagation of Buddhist teachings.

Influence of Indian Art

The earliest and also the largest of the grottoes is the one catalogued as No. 169. Researchers have discovered that this was known as the Shiliang (Constant Light) Cave. The Western Qin craftsmen utilized a natural hollow in the rock to carve Buddhas and Bodhisattvas; multicoloured paintings adorn the walls.



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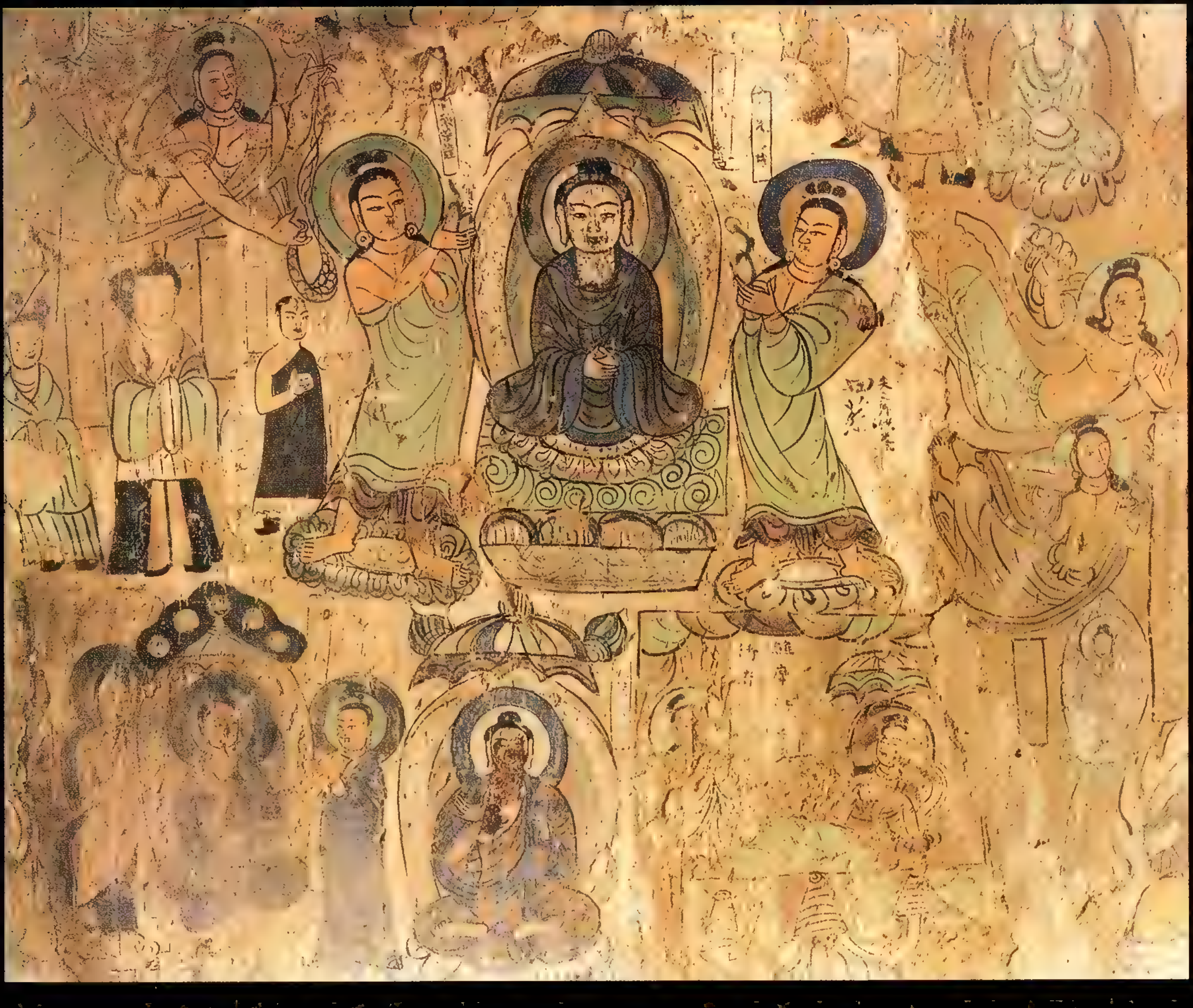

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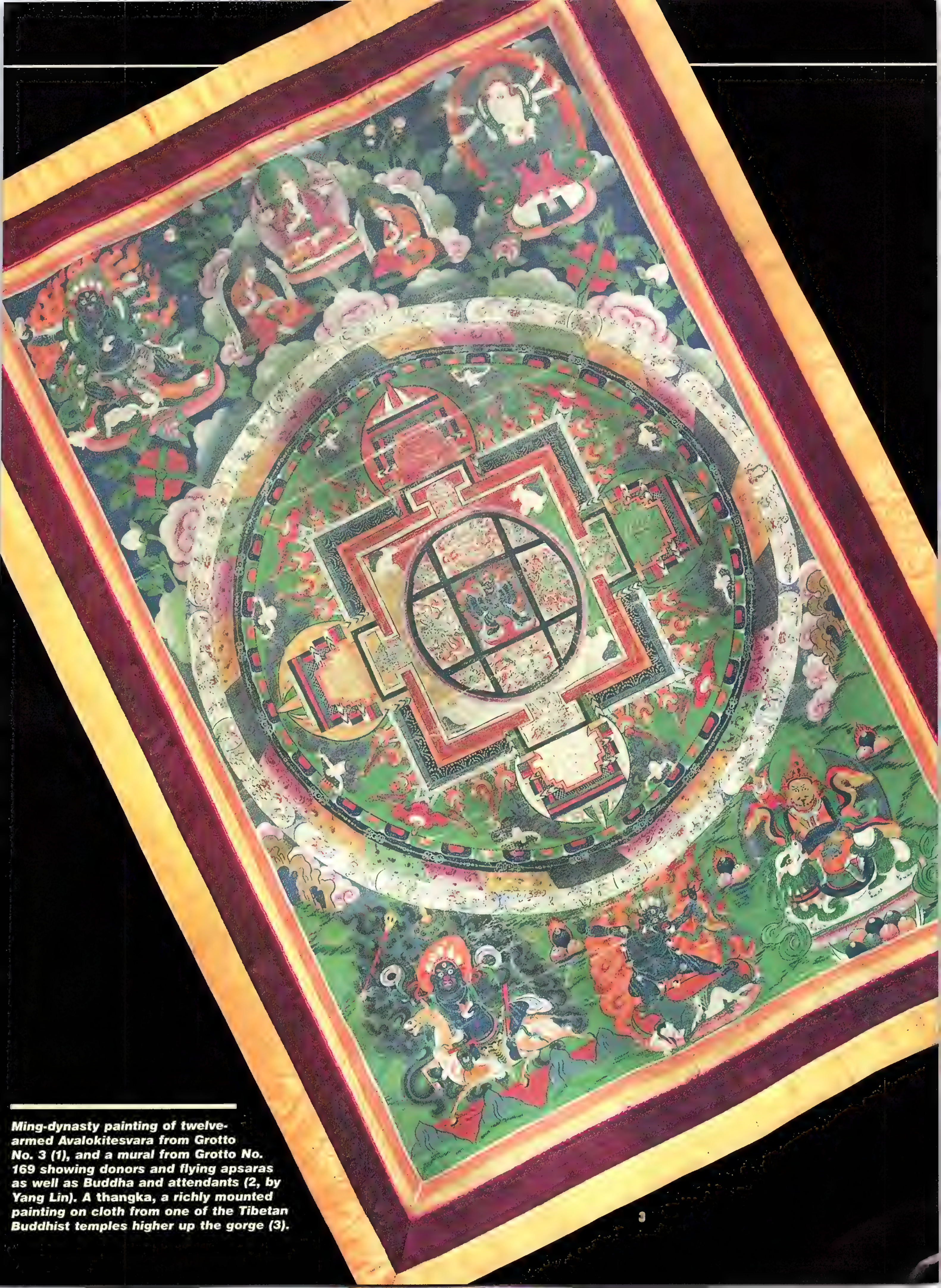
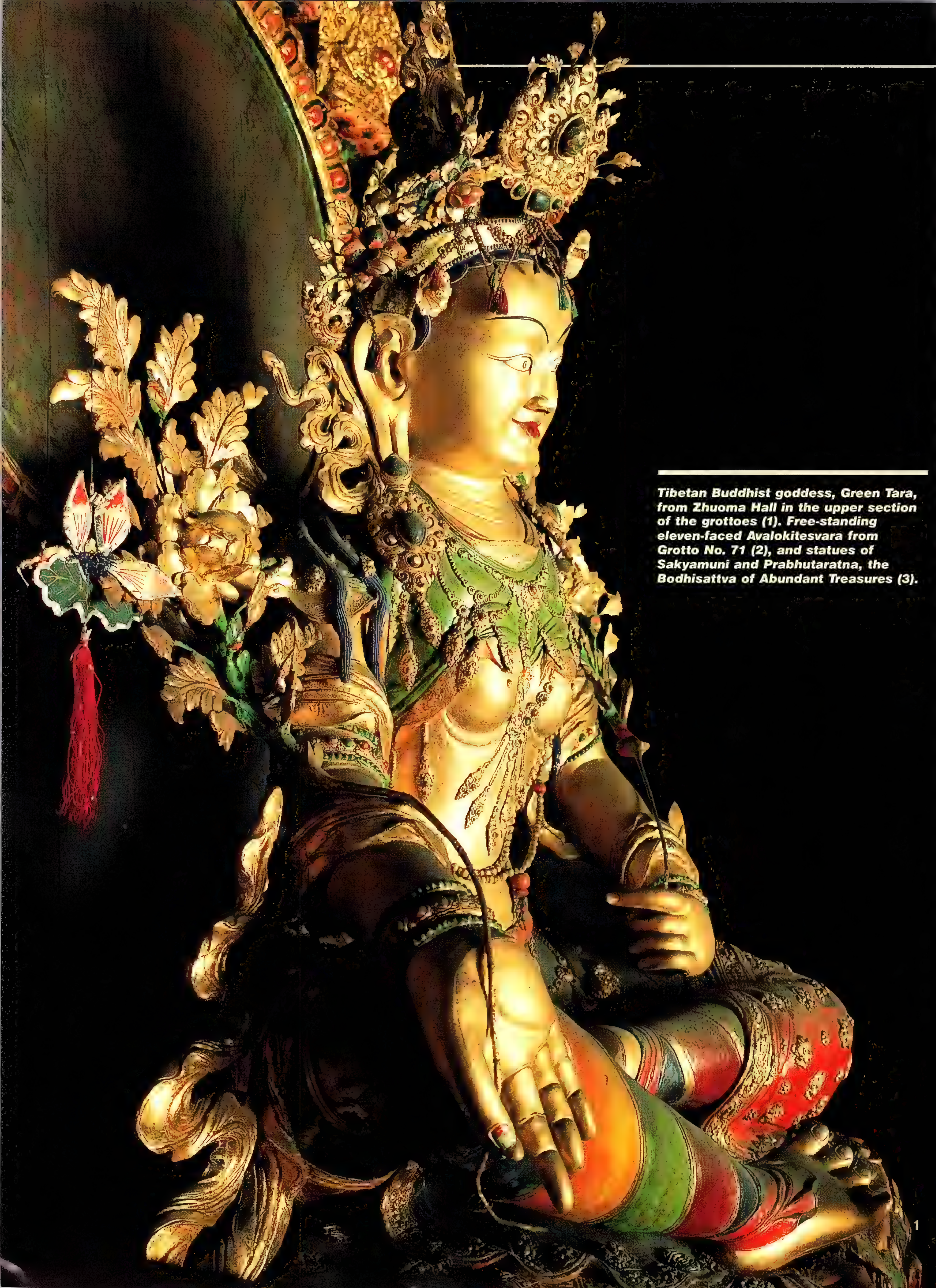


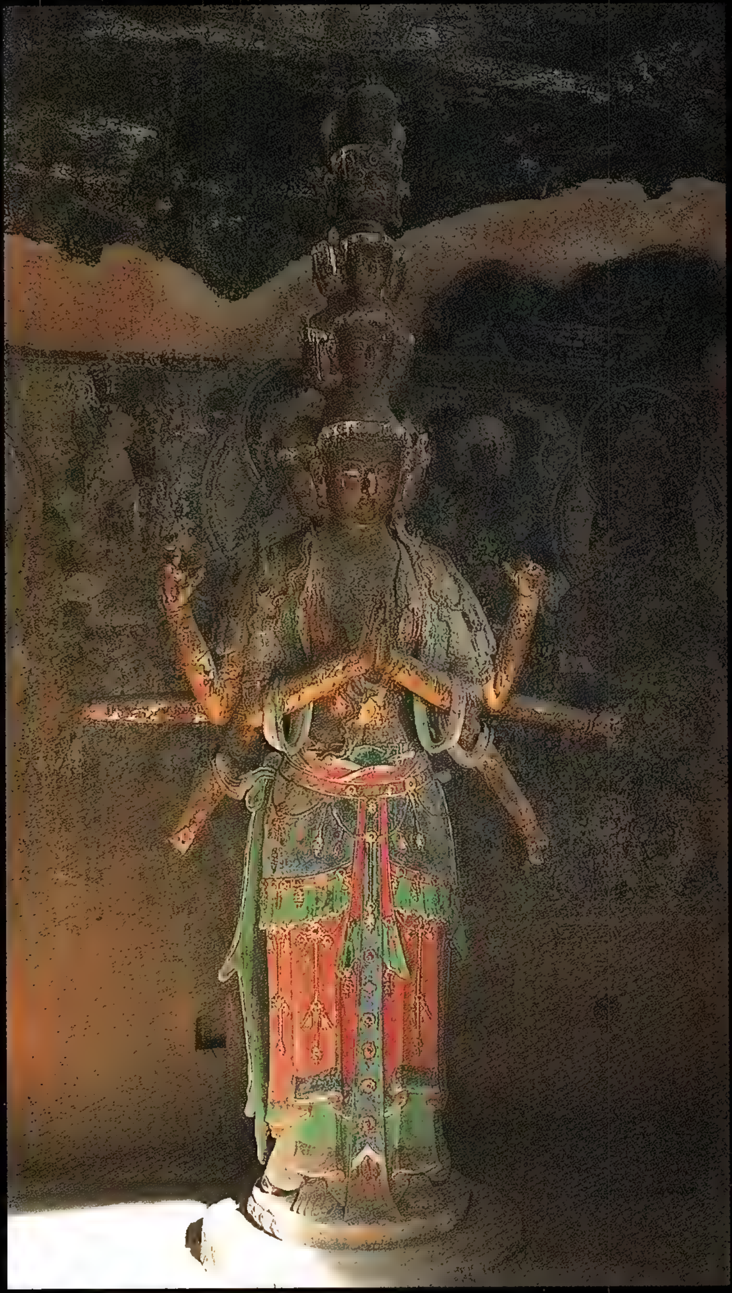
Ming-dynasty painting of twelve-armed Avalokitesvara from Grotto No. 3 (1), and a mural from Grotto No. 169 showing donors and flying apsaras as well as Buddha and attendants (2, by Yang Lin). A thangka, a richly mounted painting on cloth from one of the Tibetan Buddhist temples higher up the gorge (3).



Tibetan Buddhist goddess, Green Tara, from Zhuoma Hall in the upper section of the grottoes (1). Free-standing eleven-faced Avalokitesvara from Grotto No. 71 (2), and statues of Sakyamuni and Prabhutaratna, the Bodhisattva of Abundant Treasures (3).

The cave contains an Amitabha (Buddha of Infinite Light) with a clay body and a wooden head. Many of the larger pieces were in fact moulded from mud and straw over an inner wooden frame, then covered in stucco and painted. Made in 420, the statue's vigorous facial lines display a Caucasian cast. The moustache, coiled hair and long robe with wide sleeves show a similarity to work of the central Indian Mathura school. Since Buddhist art was still filtering through slowly to China from India and Central Asia at this epoch, the Buddhas in this cave all have Indian features, something rarely seen elsewhere in China.

The north wall of the grotto bears carvings of stone and stucco. On the sections of rock which were too hard to sculpt, paintings of Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, donors and flying deities were executed in a free and flowing hand. It is unusual to see a single wall presenting such a rich combination of carving, moulding and painting.



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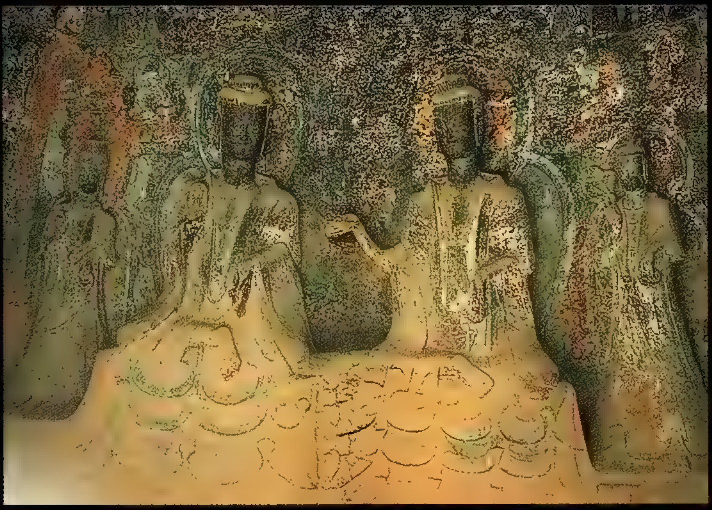

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Stylistic Mix

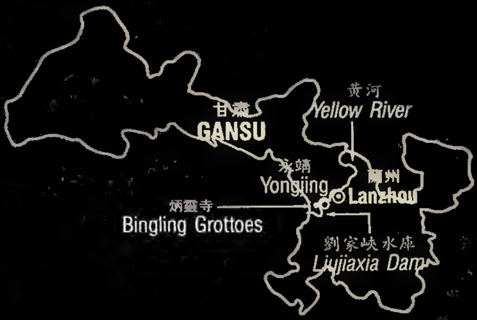
Similar influences can be seen in Grotto No. 126, which was designed in accordance with the Buddhist Trikala doctrine — that of the Past, Present and Future, each of which periods is assigned its own Buddha. Among the various statues in this grotto are two central ones with coiled hair, a long neck and sitting in a pose with soles upturned. The rather roughly executed features of these Buddhas resemble those of some of the nomadic peoples of Central Asia. However, the attendants at their sides wear hats and would appear to be Han Chinese. This coexistence of Chinese and foreign is a reflection of the gradual sinicization of Buddhist art after it was introduced into China in the first century A.D.

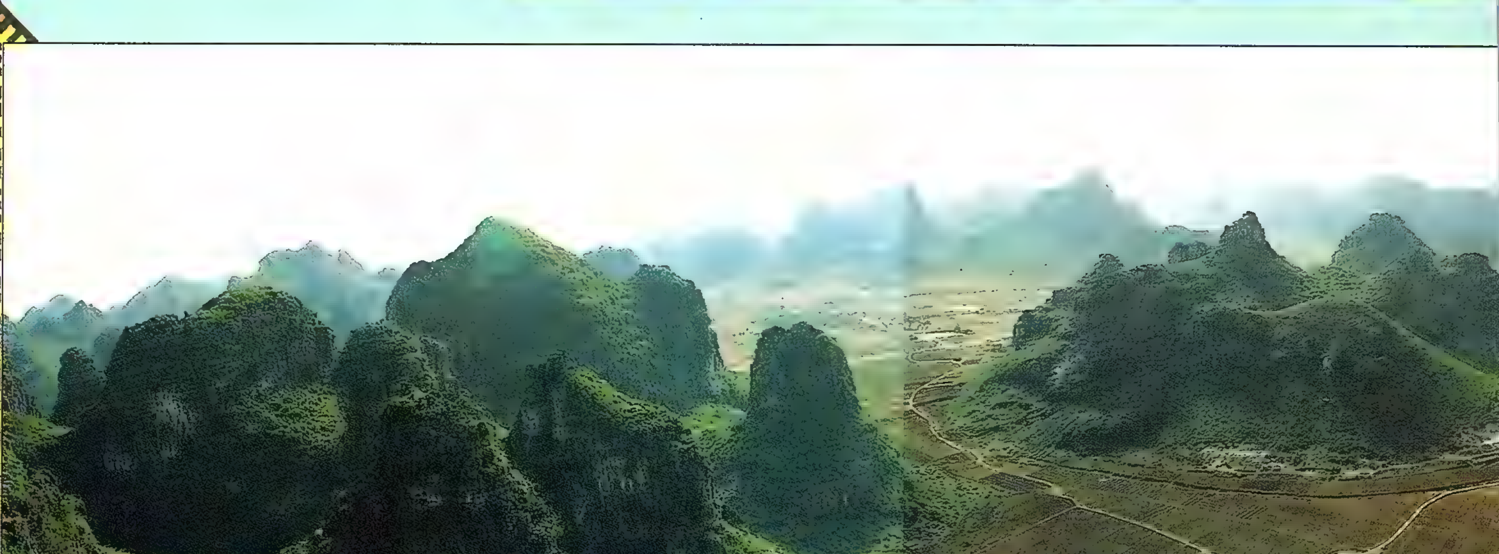
As Buddhism spread over the centuries, it developed distinctive branches such as the various sects of Tibetan Buddhism. Since the Bingling Grottoes are located not far east of Qinghai and great monasteries falling under the Tibetan Buddhist sphere of influence, it is perhaps not surprising that art works at the cave-temples executed from about the thirteenth century onwards should have been affected by this, too.

The representations of Avalokitesvara (the Bodhisattva of Compassion) in Grottoes Nos. 3 and 71 are typical of Tibetan Buddhist art. Regarded by other Buddhists as a disciple of Amitabha, this Bodhisattva is believed by Tibetans to be a personification of Amitabha himself. The Ming-dynasty mural of a twelve-armed Avalokitesvara in Grotto No. 3 and the eleven-faced statue in Grotto No. 71 both manifest the Bodhisattva's all-embracing powers; the multiple hands wield liturgical instruments, while the multiple heads represent great wisdom.

The Tibetan Buddhist link is still in existence, as a small community of lamas lives in the yellow rock gorges nearby.

Translated by He Fei



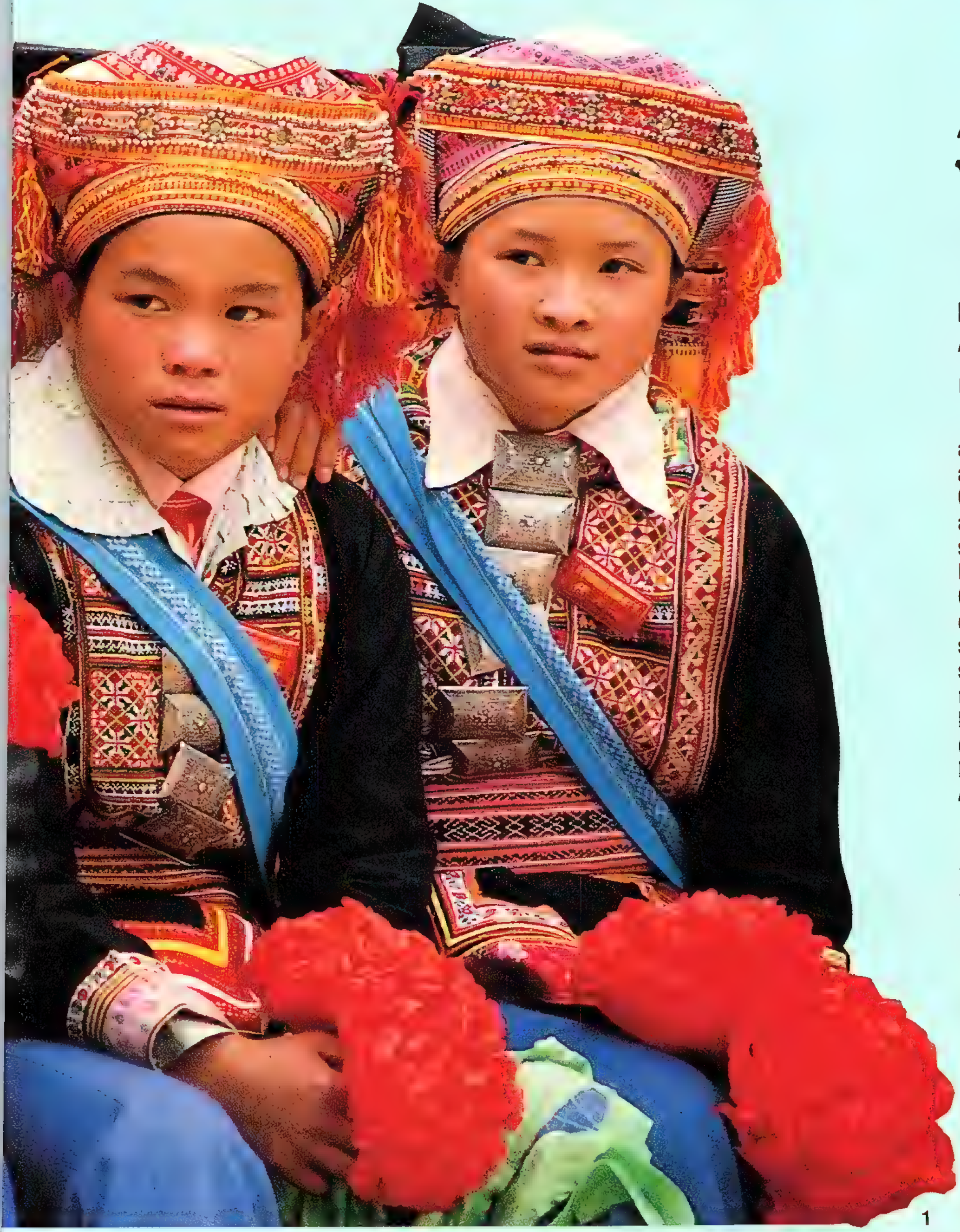


A Riot of Yao Colour

PHOTOS BY YANG CHANGYUAN
ARTICLE BY YANG TIANDE

The Yao, a minority people numbering around 1.5 million, are scattered throughout mountainous areas of southern China in Guangxi, Guangdong, Guizhou, Yunnan, Hunan and Jiangxi. After 1949, the first area specifically for the Yao was established at the Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County in the Dayao Mountains in eastern Guangxi, an area of 2,300 square kilometres containing subtropical forests and rich botanical resources. The autonomous county has a population of over 36,000 Yao, divided between five different branches: the Pan Yao, Chashan Yao, Ao Yao, Hualan Yao and Shanzi Yao.

Typical landscape of Wuxuan County, south of Jinxiu (2), and Hualan Yao girls in festive attire (1, by Deng Chaoxing).



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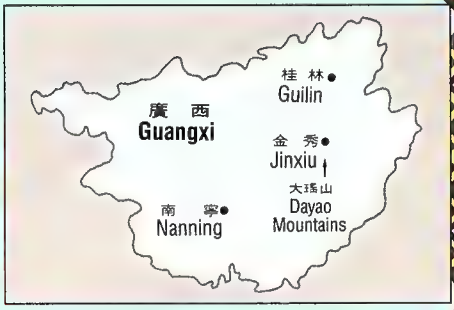

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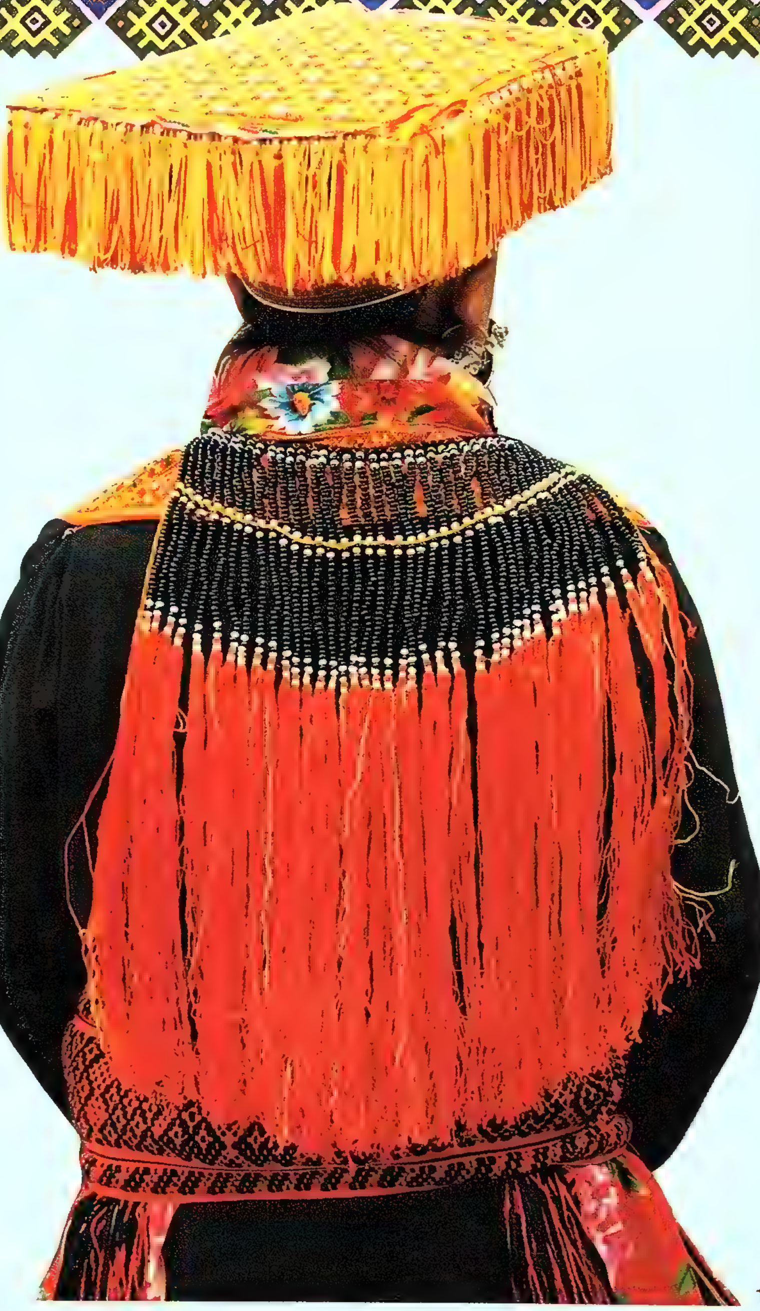
Differing according to the branch, each of which has its own language and customs, the costumes of the Yao are famous for their vivid colours. The Yao love of colour was documented as early as the *Annals of the Later Han* (a history of the Eastern Han (25-220) published during the Southern Dynasties between 420 and 589). This love has survived the test of time and the women's outfits, in particular, demonstrate highly developed skills in embroidery, beadwork, brocade, and the combination of all of these, as well as an eye for appropriate silver ornaments. The men, on the other hand, have largely adopted ordinary Han Chinese dress, except for certain of the Hualan Yao of Liuxiang; they still wear their traditional wide-collared tunics and wooden thonged clogs, and often carry a long sword.

The best time to see the full richness of the various branches' costumes is of course on gala occasions, particularly the highly important Panwang (King Pan) Festival dedicated to the legendary ancestor of the Yao people, and the time for celebrating a good harvest.

There are a number of stories about the origins of this festival. Panwang is said to have been a hero who gained the respect of his ruler and married the latter's daughter; they had twelve children, six girls and six boys. One legend states that, during a hunting trip in the mountains, Panwang was knocked off a cliff by a wild goat and died as a result of his injuries. Overwhelmed by grief at his death, his Yao followers chopped down a catalpa tree and vengefully killed the goat, using its hide and the wood from the tree to make a drum which they played while mourning their leader.

Another story is that the descendants of Panwang's sons and daughters formed twelve Yao tribes which were driven from their homelands by government officials. During the course of their migration they were caught in a storm at sea (we are not told which sea!). For seven days and nights they burned joss sticks and prayed to Panwang to deliver them from danger until, finally, they managed to reach land. To express their gratitude to their ancestral hero for his intervention, as they believed, they started to hold a commemorative festival on a certain date, in some places every three to four years, in others only every twelve years. However, different Yao branches chose different dates. The date for this festival was only unified fairly recently in August 1984, when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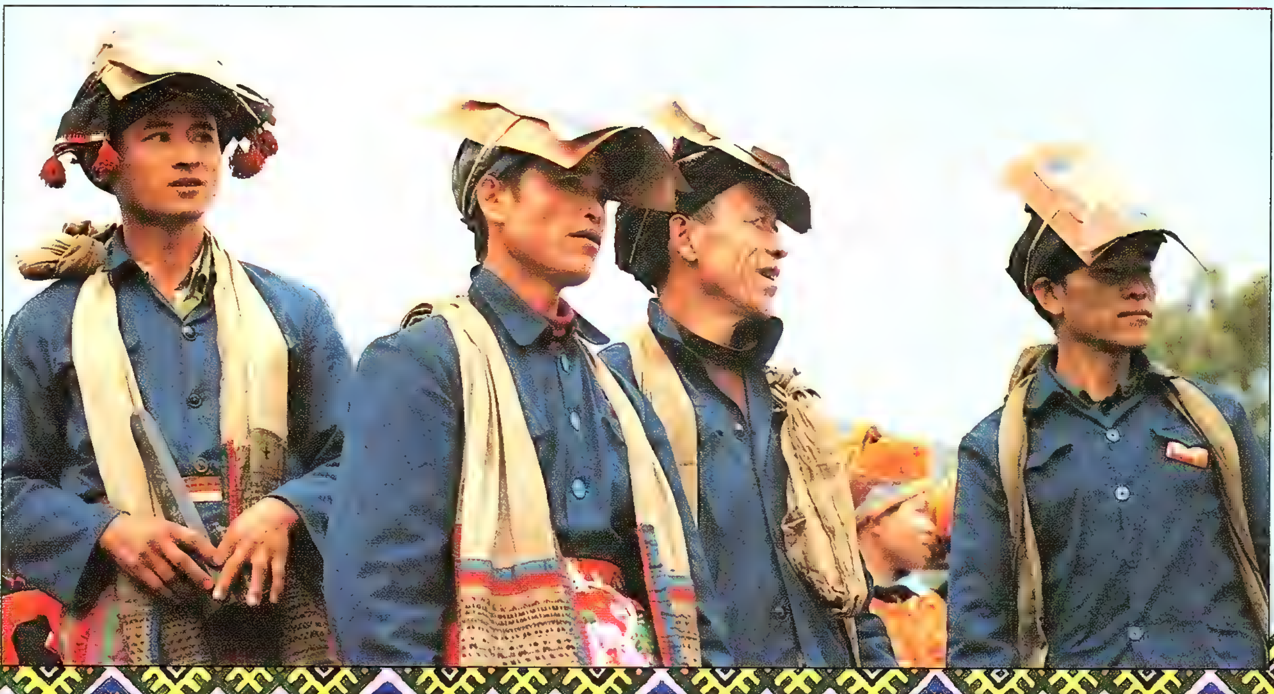
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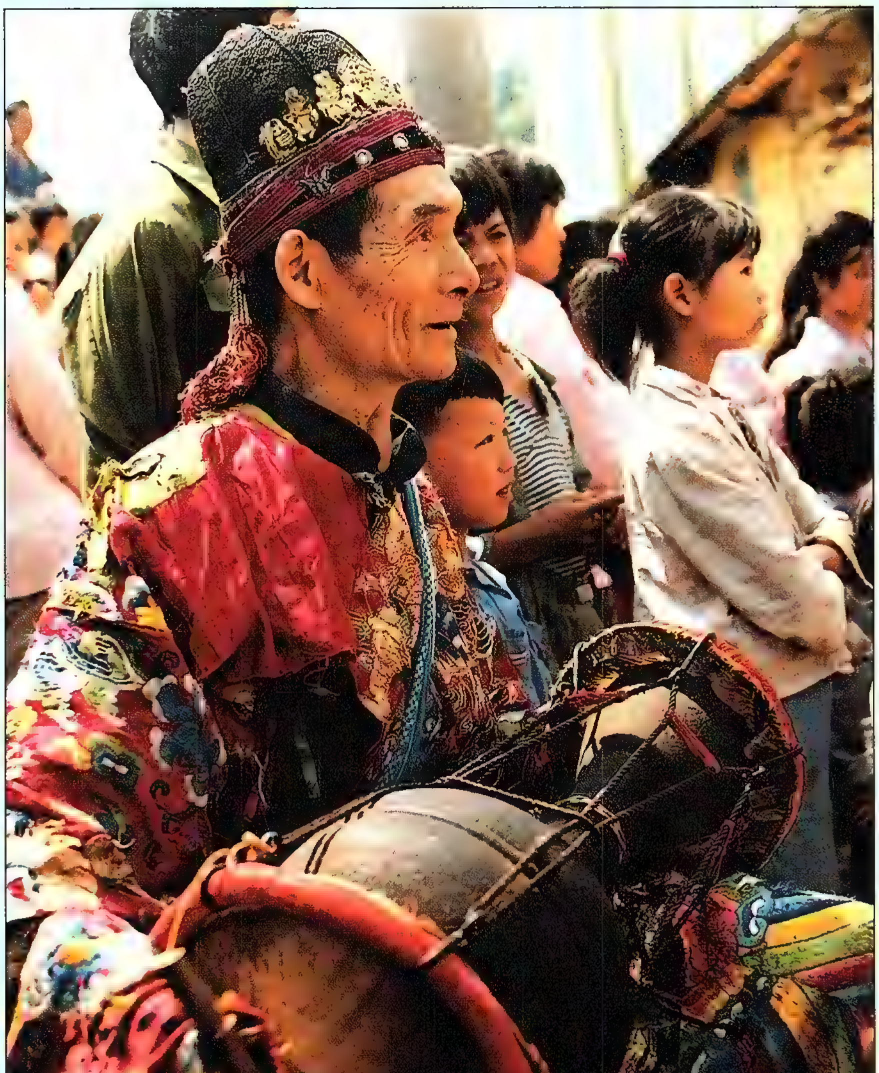

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representatives of the various Yao branches met in Nanning, the Guanxi capital. They all agreed to hold the Panwang Festival on the sixteenth day of the tenth lunar month (corresponding to November 13 1989 and December 2 1990.)

Traditional songs and dances are the most important part of the festivities which may be staged by villages individually or jointly. A description of Yao dancing can be found in *Answer and Explanation Beyond the Mountains,* compiled by Zhou Qufei in the Song dynasty (960-1279). The simple yet energetic temperament of the mountain people is expressed even today in rhythmic bending and stretching of the legs and swinging of the hips.

The Changgu (Long Drum) Dance, said to have been composed to mourn the death of Panwang, is the most famous of the dances. It has developed into a variety of forms, one of which is known as the Huangni (Yellow Earth) Drum Dance. The drums used in this dance are shaped like an egg-timer, and their ends are covered with goat's hide. They come in two sizes, the smaller type being called the 'male' drum, the larger the 'female' drum.

The latter is the main focus of the Yellow Earth Drum Dance, its low, sonorous tones complemented by the higher-pitched 'male' drums. Before the performance, the faces of the drums are smeared with yellow mud, presumably to alter the pitch. Each troupe normally comprises ten dancers and drummers, six men and four women. One drummer dances in the centre, a 'female' drum slung aslant across his front, beating it with a bamboo stick held in his right hand and with his left palm. Around this central figure — in a clockwise direction — dance four men, each beating a 'male' drum with the right hand, while the rest of the troupe, one man and four women, encircle them dancing and waving handkerchiefs to mime grief. The 'female' drum sets the rhythm for the dance, and high skill is required to coordinate the 'female' and 'male' drums. The whole event demonstrates the rich and colourful culture of the Yao people.

Translated by Ursula Yeung

A plethora of dress variations: Pan Yao girl (1), visitors from a neighbouring district (4); even the youngest are beautifully kitted out (3). Preparing for the Yellow Earth Drum Dance (2) and drummer getting into the swing of things (5, by Liang Jiaji).

Pearls and Gems for a Buddhist Reliquary

PHOTOS BY JIN QINCHUN
TEXT BY SUN FENGCHU

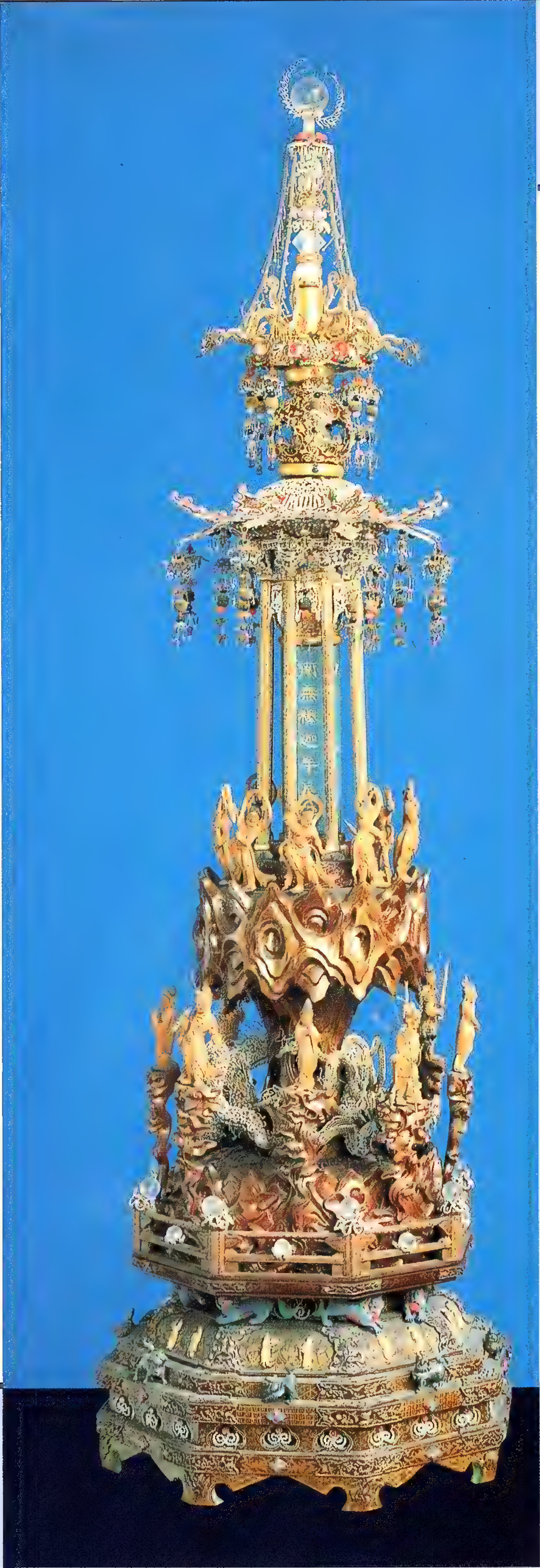


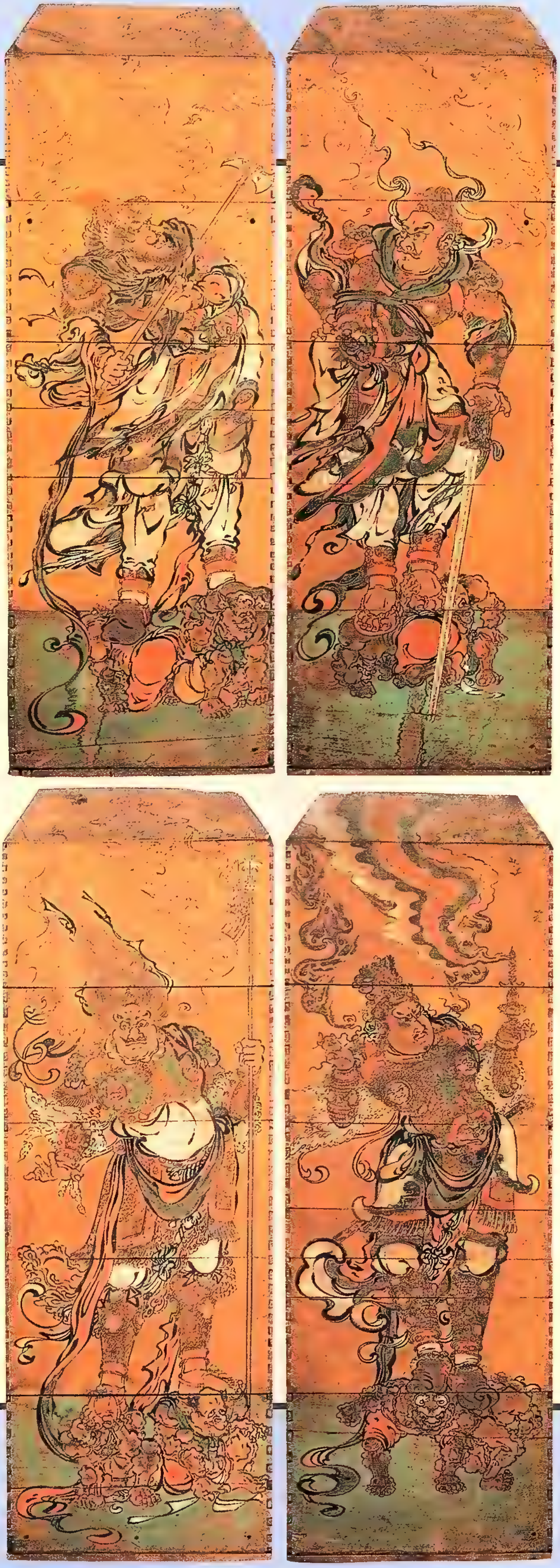
Photo by Sun Fengchu

If you walk towards the southwestern corner of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, perhaps on the way to the imposing Panmen Gate on the old city wall, you pass an area of wasteland in the centre of which stands a tall but dreadfully dilapidated pagoda.

This is the Ruiguang (Good-Omened Light) Pagoda, which was originally part of the Puji Temple built by Sun Quan (182-252), King of Wu, in 241 during the Three Kingdoms. The pagoda was initially thirteen storeys high but was reconstructed as a brick and stone octagonal structure with only seven storeys during the Song dynasty (960-1279). Many more renovations followed. Nevertheless, despite its present condition of advanced decay, precious finds were made in the pagoda in 1963 and 1978.

Probably the most valuable relic discovered was this Buddhist reliquary dating from 1013 in the Song dynasty. It was found in a shrine built inside the wall on the third level of the pagoda in April 1978 in the course of work on the site.

This is an extraordinarily elaborate miniature version of the Buddhist stupa or pagoda, with a base, a shaft, and a wheel-shaped top culminating in a crystal globe,



symbol of the sun, and a half-moon executed in filigree. The reliquary is 122.6 centimetres high, and it is encrusted with pearls and precious stones and gems. The number of pearls used has been estimated at around forty thousand!

The base is in the form of Mount Sumeru, the mythical holy mountain of Buddhism, and it is executed in lacquer and painted in gold with peonies and other flowers. Above them are lions and flying dragons in gold and silver filigree, these too incorporating pearls and gems. Heavenly generals carved from sandalwood pose on clouds of a different, darker wood. Thus, just this pedestal alone displays sundry traditional Chinese crafts: painting in gold, lacquerwork, wood-carving, gold and silver work, as well as the jeweller's art.

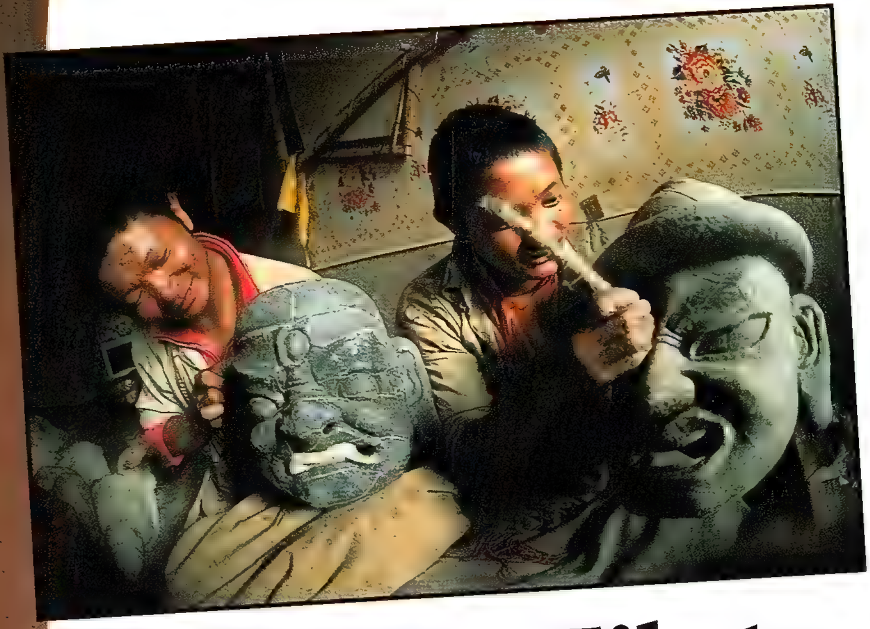
The scripture pillar in the centre is surrounded by eight pillars 'woven' from gold wire and surmounted by the ornate top, a mass of gold and silver filigree, with intricate dangling decorations again largely made up of pearls and precious stones.

The discovery of this reliquary, which contains nine pieces of bone from the cremation remains of a leading monk, was an important event for the present-day craftsmen of Suzhou since it will assist them to revive the filigree techniques displayed — techniques which had been lost. It provides material evidence which they will be able to copy, master, and pass on in their turn.

The large wooden box in which the reliquary was found is itself a national treasure of great artistic and historical value. It is a double box. The outer walls of the inner compartment are painted with representations of the four lokapalas, guardians of the four directions of the compass. The figures are drawn with strong lines. Their armour reveals careful attention to detail, while the floating draperies, tendrils and apparent flames which surround them illustrate the subtlety and control of the artist's strokes. The colours of the paintings are as bright as ever, and every line and feature is still clear. The paintings are executed in a style which reminds one of Wu Daozi* and the painters of his school in the Tang dynasty (618-907).

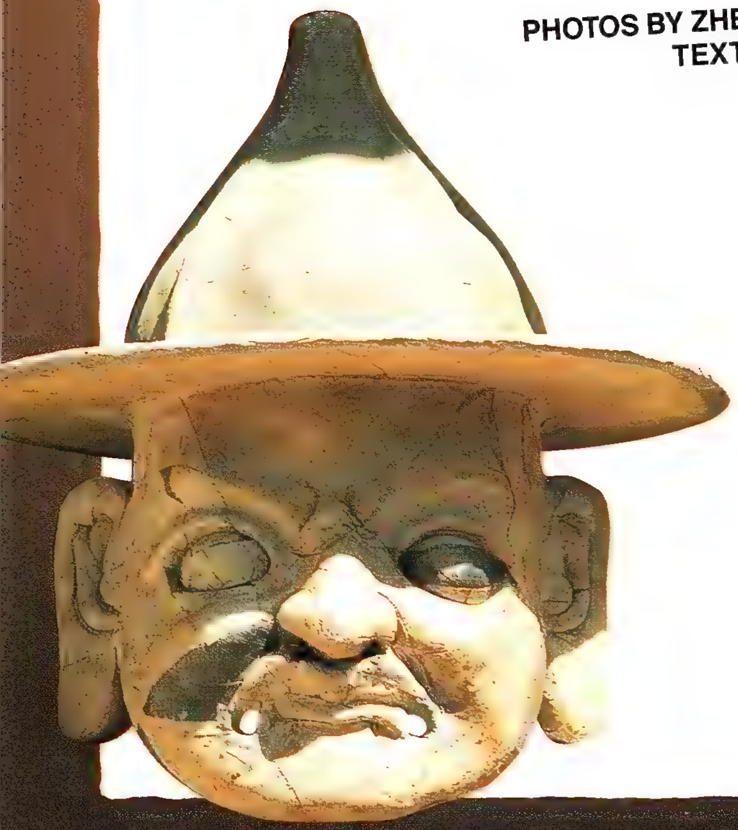
Translated by W. Lau

*Wu Daozi (died 762) was a painter of the Tang dynasty who excelled at painting Buddhist and Taoist figures. He was especially skilled at portraying the folds of robes so that they looked as though they were floating in the breeze. Unfortunately, none of his original works have survived.



Tibetan Masks of Qinghai

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG
TEXT BY TIAN CUI



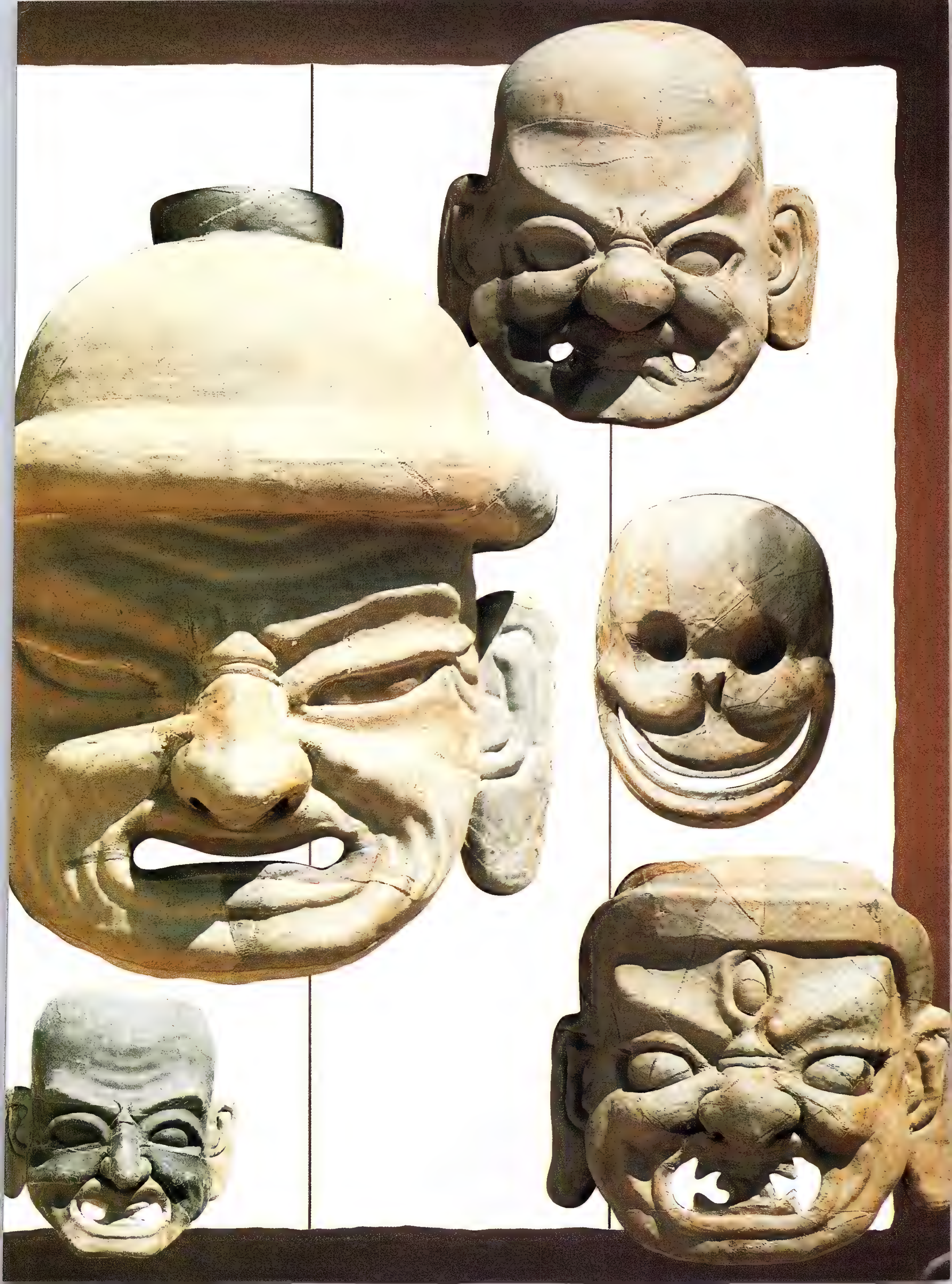
Wherever there are communities of Tibetans — so not just Tibet itself, but also Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu — one can find manifestations of Tibetan art and culture, although there may be certain local variations.

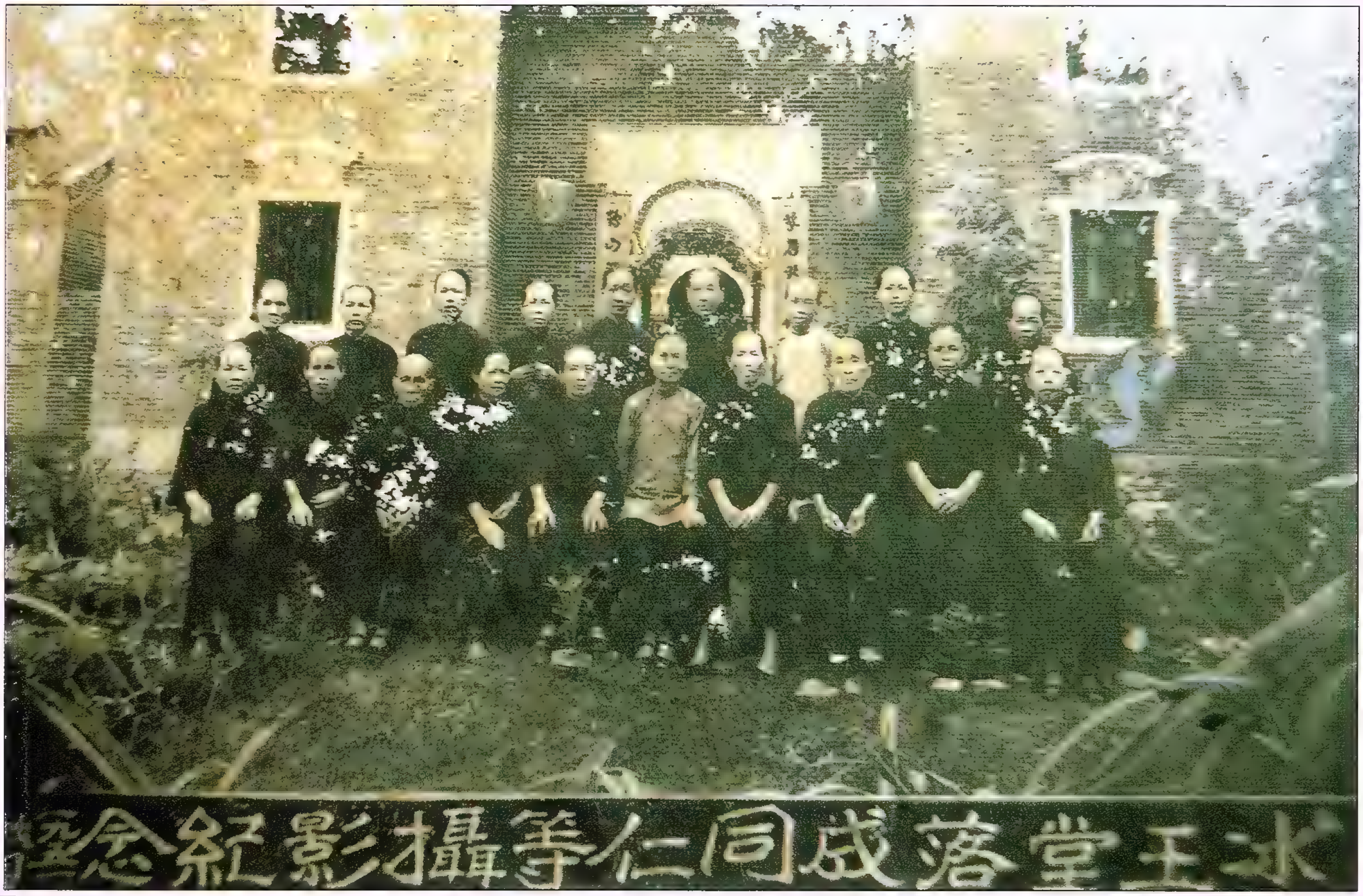
As with most things Tibetan, it is difficult to draw a clear demarcation line between the religious and the secular. For example, the text, dance steps, music, masks and costumes used in Tibetan-style opera are conditioned by Tibetan Buddhism and sometimes incorporate themes from the scriptures, while religious dramatic dance forms have been influenced by folk elements and legends, often from pre-Buddhist times. In the cycle of stories concerning King Gesar of the Kingdom of Linggar in eastern Tibet (now Qinghai), for instance, the popular warrior-hero has metamorphosed over time, and with the spread of Buddhism, into a Bodhisattva sent to earth to aid mankind.

In both categories, masks are worn to assist the audience to identify the characters involved: demons, skeletal death's-heads, gods, saints, kings, warriors, protectors of the faith, buffoons....

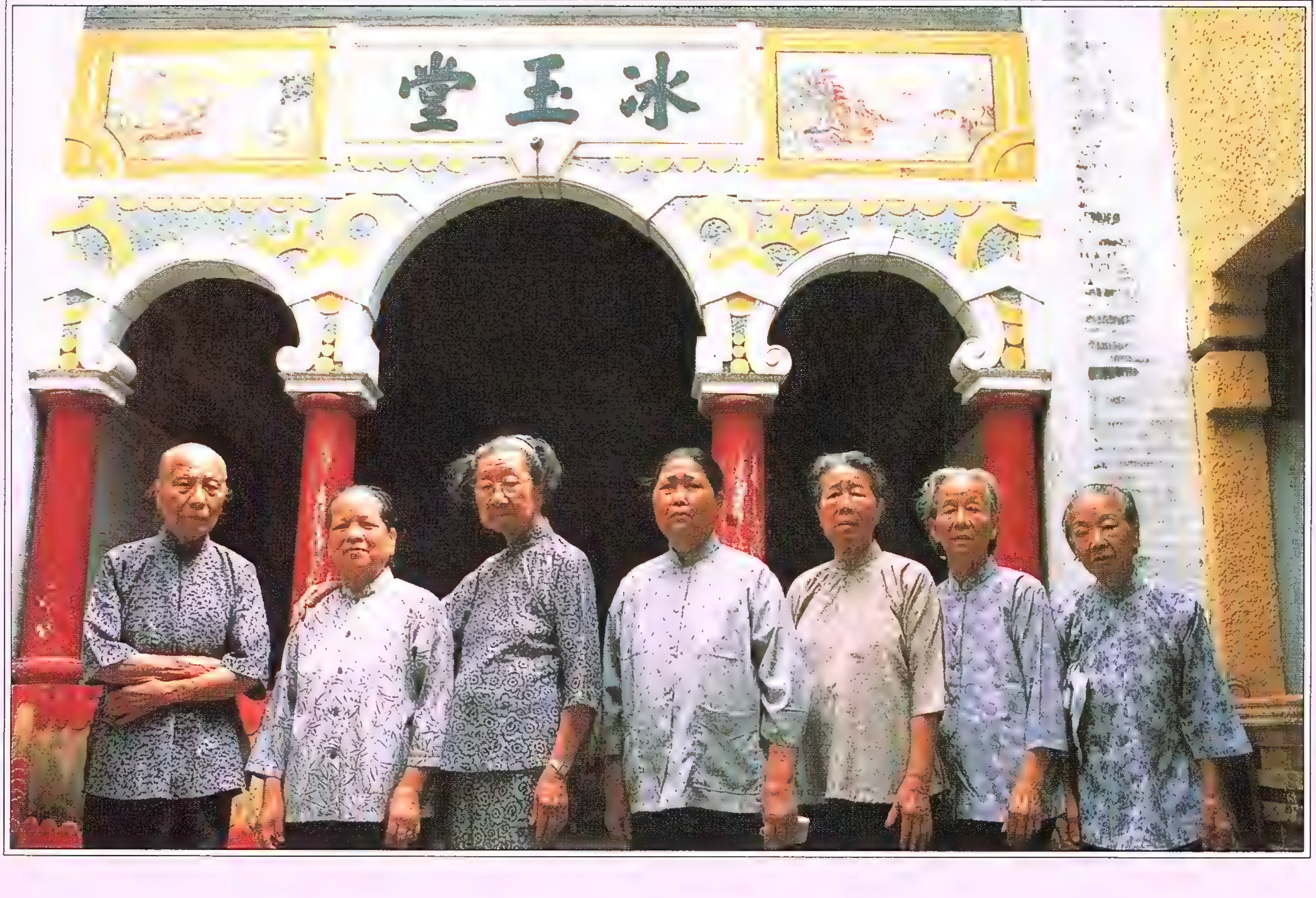
As seen in the area around the source of the Huanghe (Yellow River) in central Qinghai, such masks are made by a simple process. Scraps of fabric are wetted and applied over a mould. A layer of plaster is added, and this sequence is repeated until the features are sufficiently well defined or the mask is sufficiently thick. After drying, the mould is removed and the mask is varnished and painted as appropriate, ready to play its part in a folk opera or become the embodiment of a god or demon in a masked sorceror's dance.

Translated by C. Y. Tai




冰玉堂落成同仁等攝影紀念

1



2

The Celibate Women of Shunde

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENGE
ARTICLE BY HU YUE

The seventh day of the seventh lunar month is Qixi, the Festival of the Weaver Maid. According to Chinese legend, this is the one night of the year that the Weaver Maid (the star Vega) and her beloved husband the Cowherd (Altair) are reunited in the sky. It was traditionally an important occasion for Chinese women who would ask the Weaver Maid to grant them her skill in weaving, needlework and embroidery.

In Shunde County, located in the heart of the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province, there still exists a group of women who, despite the fact that they have taken a solemn oath to remain celibate, nevertheless revere the Weaver Maid and celebrate her festival every year.

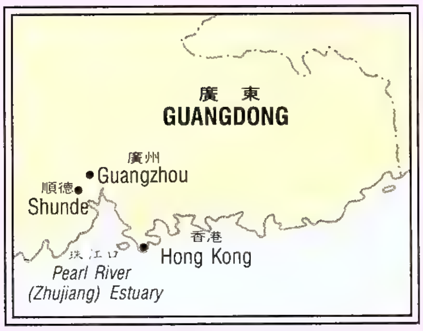
These women are known as *zishunü* ('self-combed women' or 'women who put up their own hair'). In the old days, on the night before the wedding, a maidservant would coil the bride's hair into a bun as a sign of her change of status. A young woman who had taken the deliberate decision to remain single would ask her friends to do this. But first she had to obtain her parents' consent. If they acquiesced, the girl would gather her friends together and pick an auspicious date. On that day, besides praying for blessings from her ancestors and the gods, the girl would get her friends to dress her hair in a bun in front of the whole village to show her determination to devote herself to an unmarried life.

The large number of *zishunü* in Shunde was a result of the very special social and economic conditions prevailing in that area of southern China from the 1820s onwards. Shunde became the centre of the silk industry in Guangdong and silk factories sprang up everywhere; very nearly the entire population was engaged in some aspect of silk production. Women workers acting as spinsters (literally!) could earn twenty to thirty silver pieces each month plus bonus, a fortune for those days, so many women became the major breadwinner in their family. Getting married and having children of their own would have meant giving up this attractive income, with all its consequences. After weighing the pros and cons, many women decided not to marry. They continued to work in the silk factories, earning money to support their family and pay for schooling for younger brothers and sisters.

This was truly extraordinary at that period, when women could still be sold as concubines; when, before marriage, they were expected to obey their families in everything and, after marriage, transfer their complete allegiance to their husband's family. And since, by going through the special ceremony, she had distanced herself from her own family just as she would have done by marrying, the first priority of a *zishunü* was to pool money with her closest friends to buy or build a house where they could live in an all-female community. Such houses became known as *gupo* (sisterhood) quarters. Some *zishunü* even adopted young girls to become their 'heirs' so that they would have someone on whom they could

Then (1) and now (2); the top photo was taken in the 1950s shortly after the completion of Bingyu Hall.

1



2

3

rely for financial support in old age, as was customary between parents and children in China.

In the 1930s, however, the silk industry suffered a decline in Shunde; as a growing number of factories closed, many *zishunü* lost their jobs. With little other option, most of them went into domestic employment in Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries, where they were often referred to as 'black-and-white amahs' from their uniform of black trousers and spotless white tunics.

The majority of the *zishunü* now living in the Jun'an area of Shunde have spent most of their lives elsewhere. Since they were frequently unable to enjoy the Festival of the Weaver Maid abroad, they have decided to celebrate it in style now that they are back in China. In doing so, they also hope to inspire the young women of today, who tend to know little about the ancient story.

A recent Festival of the Weaver Maid held in Jun'an, Shunde, saw a gathering of thirty to forty *zishunü,* all between seventy and eighty years of age, who had returned to their sisterhood quarters, Bingyu (Pure Jade) Hall, which they had had built in the 1950s. Their professed intention was to live out their remaining years in peace there, the younger ones caring for their elders and the infirm.

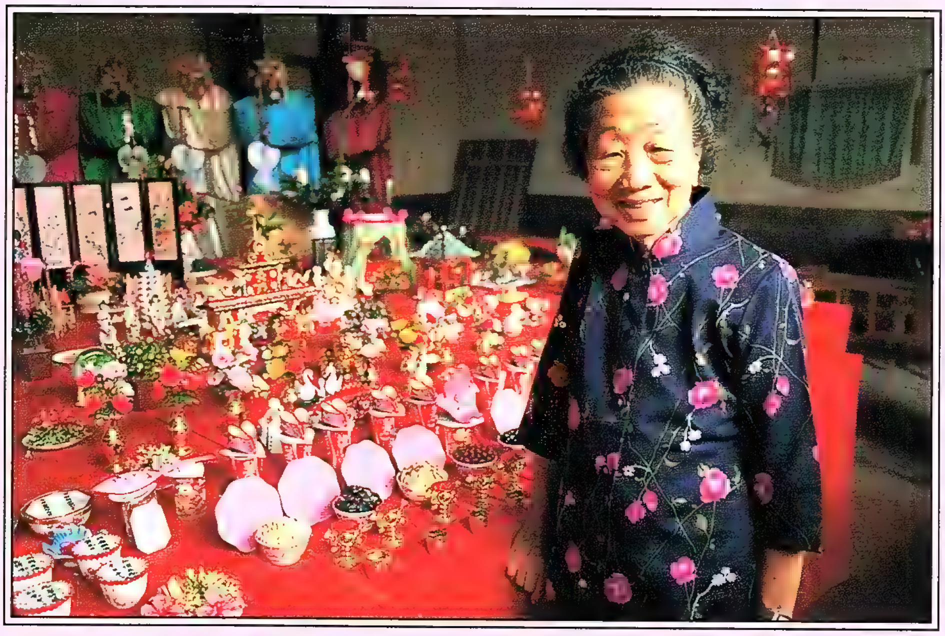
However, the festivities took place in the ancestral hall of the local Huang clan since close to ten thousand people had come from all over Shunde County. The *zishunü* were kept busy receiving relatives and friends and distributing sweets to children. It was considered a privilege to hold the event in this ancestral hall; *zishunü* are obviously held in great respect by the villagers.

The focus of all eyes was the large table in the centre of the hall on which were displayed more than a hundred items dedicated to the Weaver Maid. A set of outfits made for 'seventh sister' (that is, the Weaver Maid herself) was quite astonishing. It consisted of intricate garments made from fabric brought from Singapore and had taken months to make. Other much admired items were a pair of tiny 'bound-foot' shoes and a miniature embroidered wedding bed. The inclusion of the latter and the pots of rice seedlings — symbolic of the husband toiling in the fields — seemed to indicate that the celibate *zishunü* were by no means blind to the pain of separation suffered by the Cowherd and his Weaver Maid, as too did the sentimental poems 'written' for the occasion in small coloured beads or seeds.

When we consider it properly, these women's decision to remain single was the result of the limited choices available to them in their youth. Nowadays, it is no longer necessary for women to forswear marriage to be financially independent. But *zishunü* will be remembered with pride as early pioneers in the field of female emancipation in China.

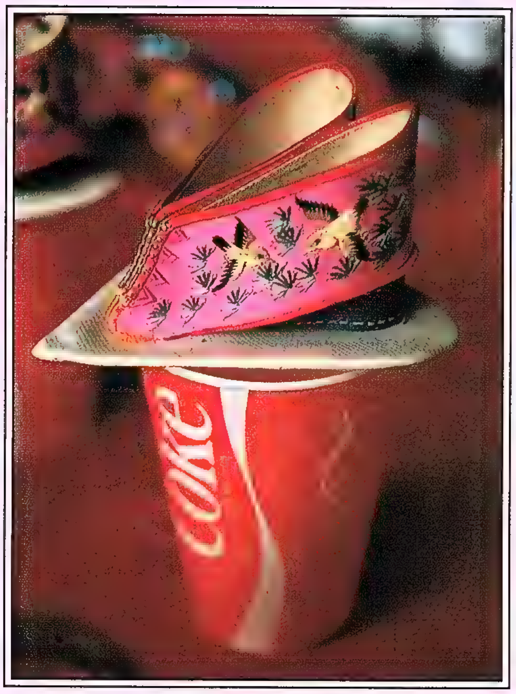
Translated by Ursula Yeung

Caring for an aged, invalid resident (1). Items on the offerings table in the Huang clan's ancestral hall (4): miniature embroidered bed (2), rice seedlings (5), poems written in seeds or tiny beads (3), 'bound-foot' shoes (6).



4

5



6

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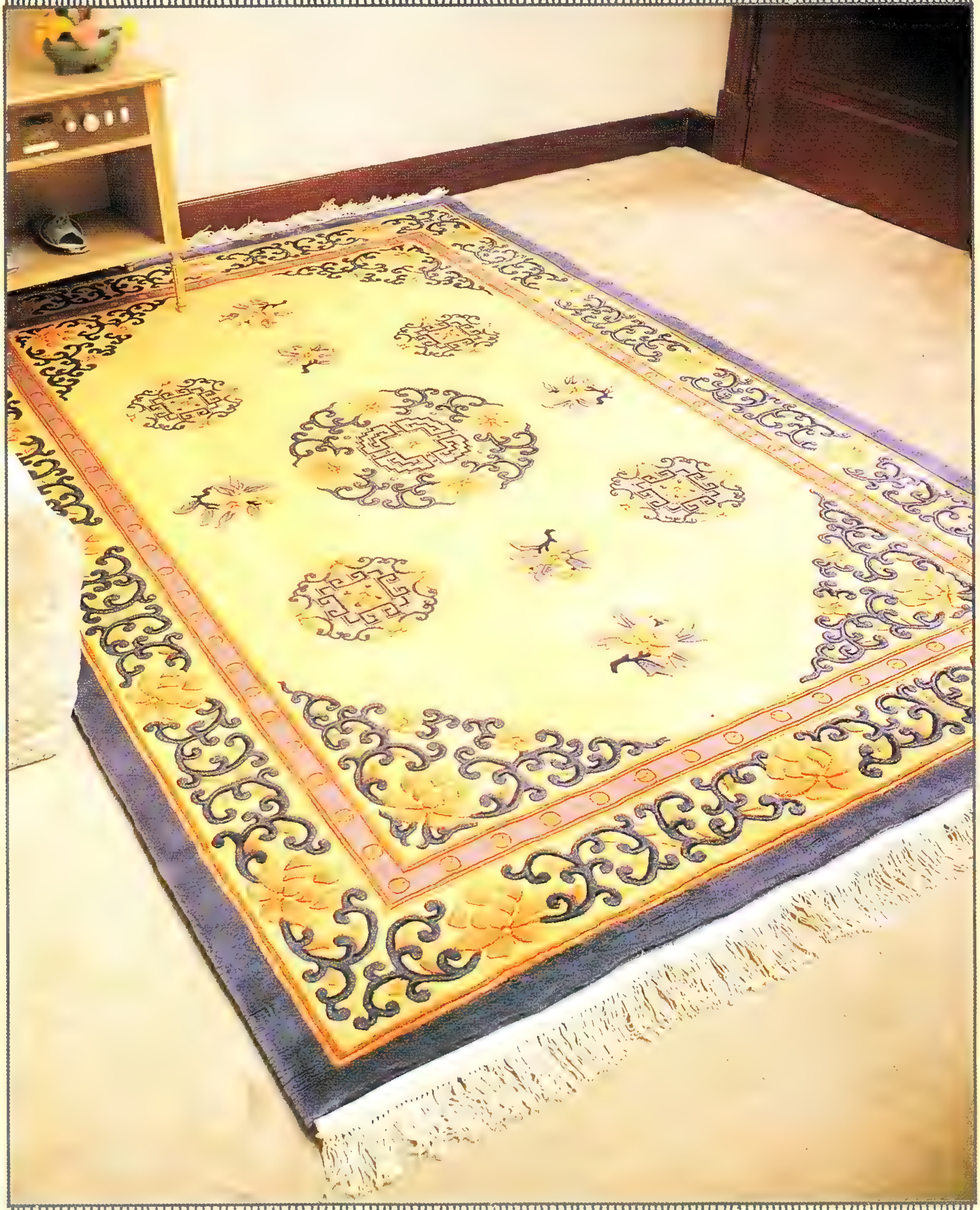

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Introduction to Commodities of Beijing Garments Import & Export Company

Garments are one of Beijing's commodities exported in large amounts. The annual export volume has topped US$110 million. With the intensification of economic reforms and continuous implementation of the 'opening' policy, the export of Beijing's garments is developing accordingly. To meet the increasing demands of our clients and open up a new international market, Beijing Garments Import & Export Company, which was separated from Beijing Textiles Import & Export Branch in January 1988, has been founded. It is the sole specialized company in Beijing for export of all kinds of garments.

Our company handles garments for men, women and children. Available are suits, coats, car coats, safari jackets, jackets, wind cheaters, shirts, trousers, robes, pyjamas, waistcoats, dresses, etc., made of cotton, wool, jute, chemical fibres and mixed woven fabrics.

Mutual benefit, observance of contract, keeping credit, assuring quality, excellent service are our guidelines in doing business. We have established good business relations with 80 countries and regions throughout the world.

Beijing has a history of several decades in garment exports. In recent years it has imported advanced equipment and technology which suit the needs of international markets and set up specialized factories and workshops for producing export garments; it thus has laid a solid foundation for the rapid development of this field. Garments exported from Beijing have gained a good reputation and they enjoy the trust of clients. Internationally famous brand products such as Apple jeans, YSL shirts and Pierre Cardin suits are also made in Beijing.

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Import & Export Corporation

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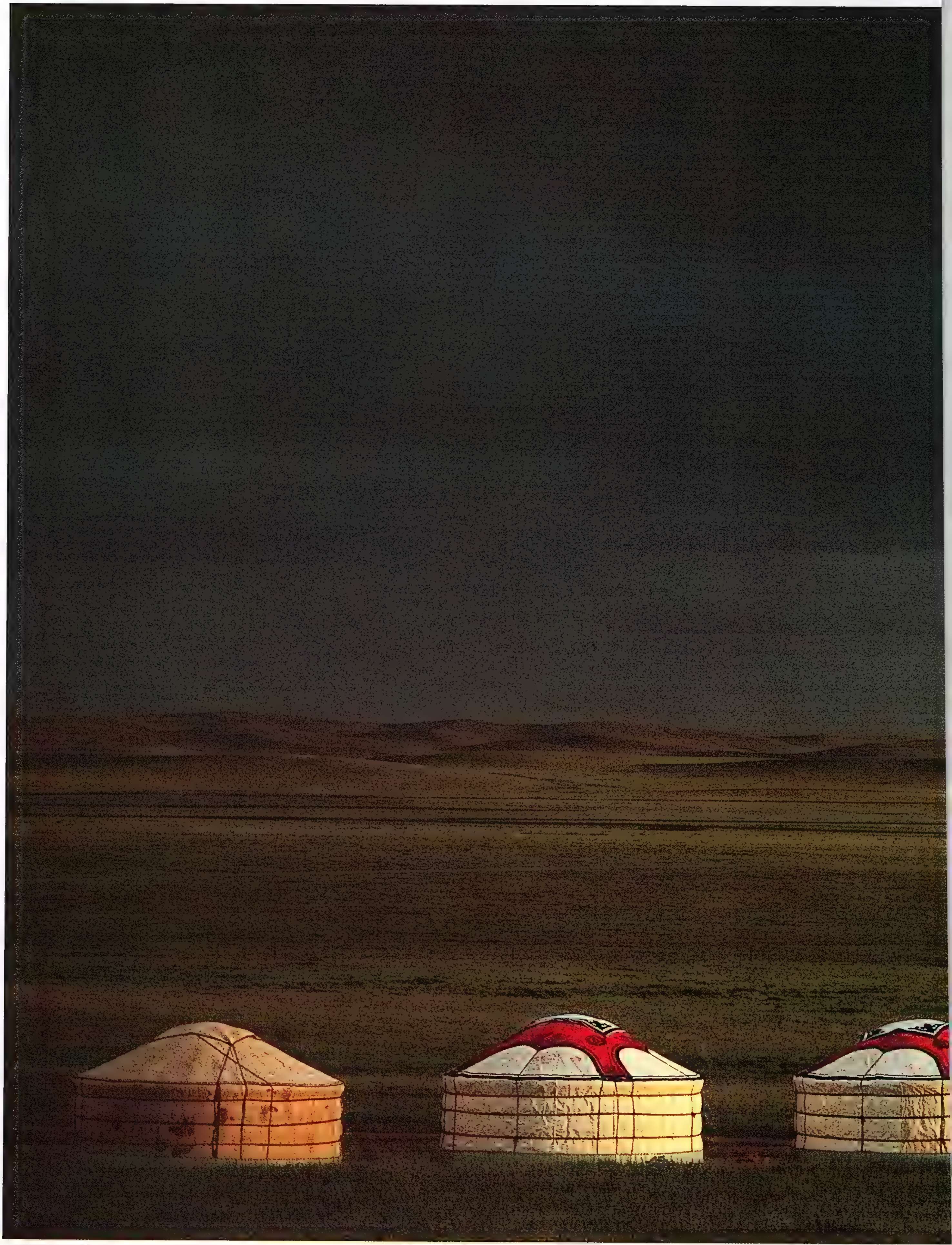
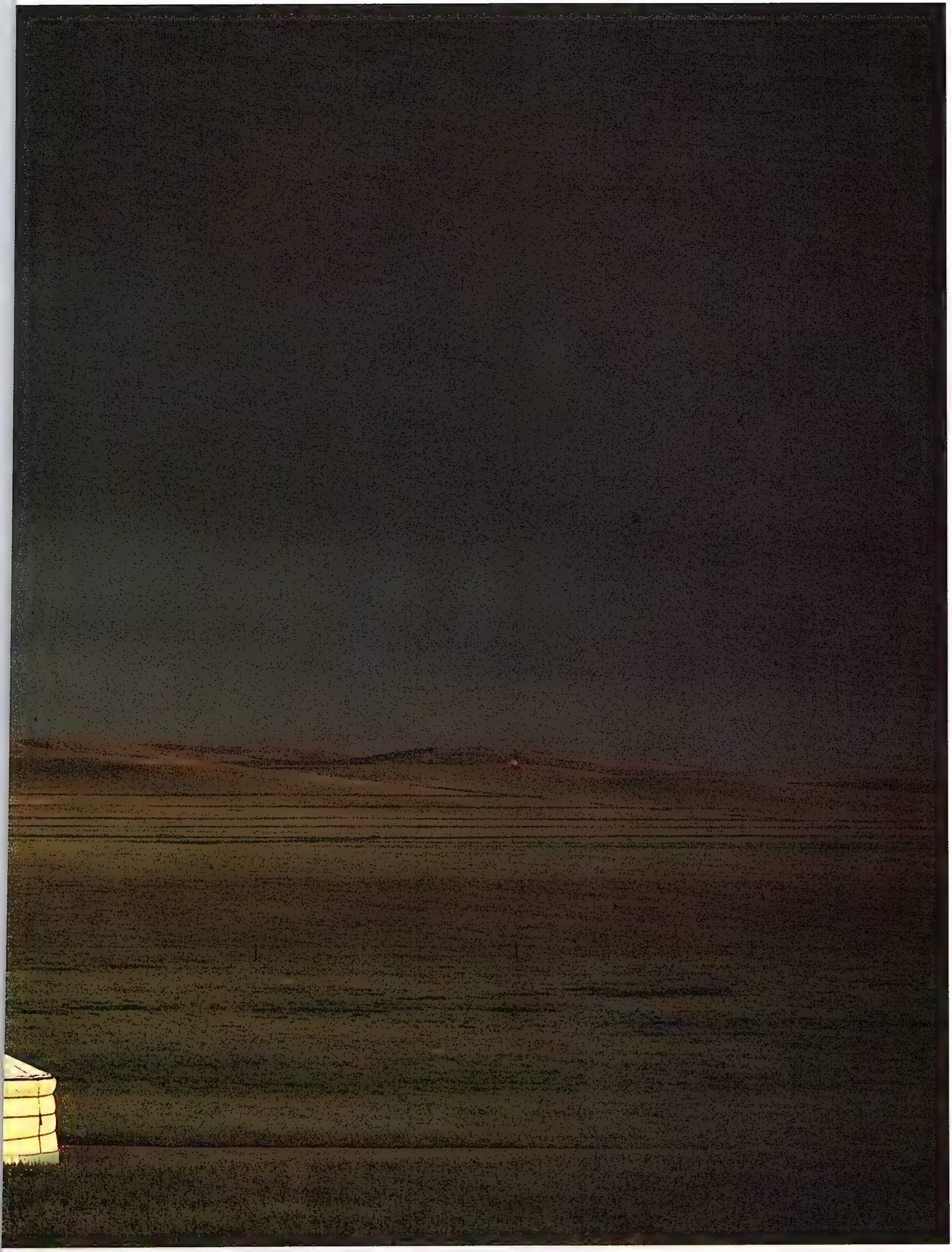


PHOTOGRAPHER: ALFRED KO The first tentative feelers of the day creep across to touch a trio of yurts — 'tourist' yurts to be sure — strande

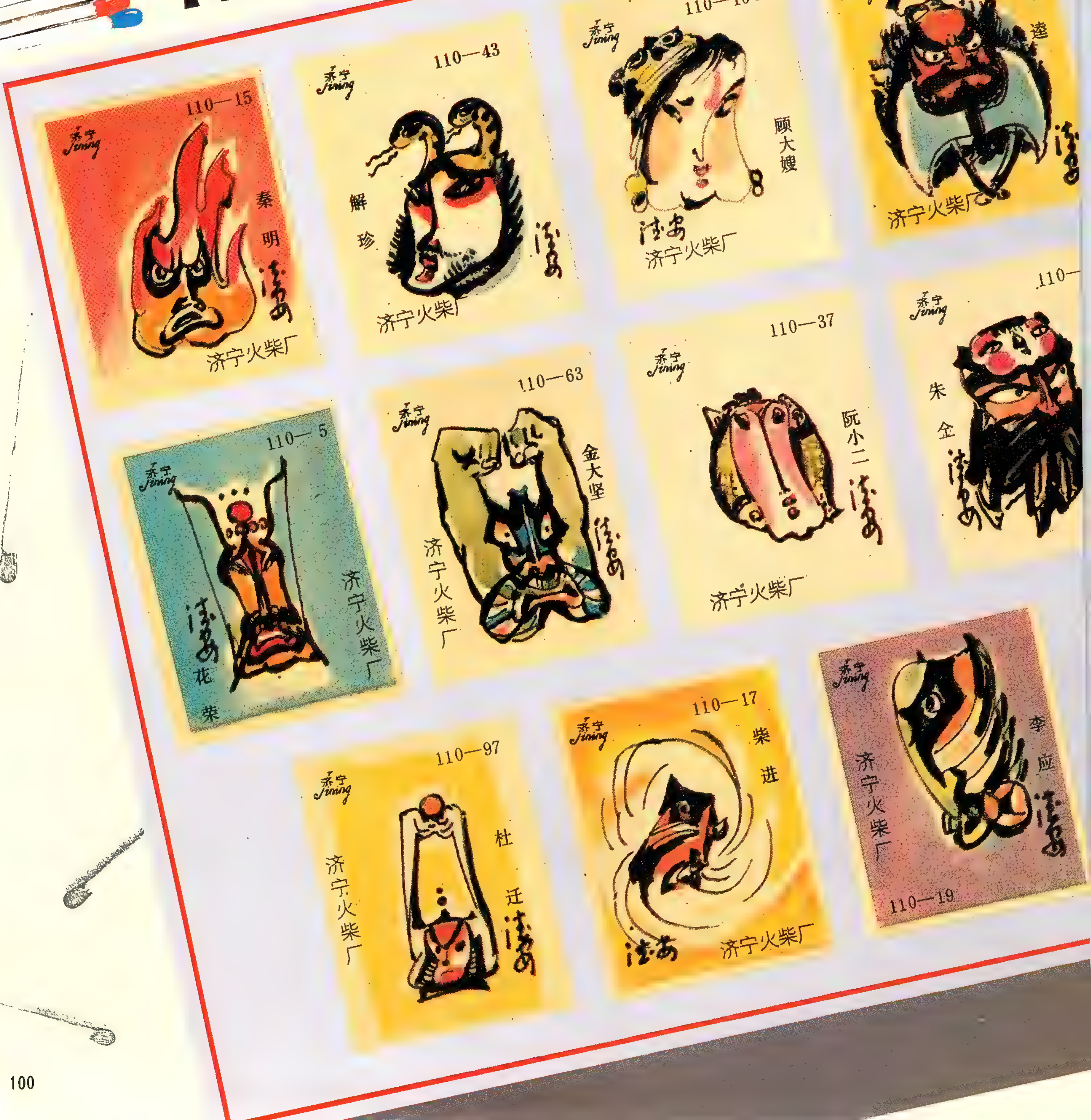


n the immensity of the Inner Mongolian grasslands and sky.

Matchbox Labels

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG

TEXT BY A


110—15
济宁 Jining
秦明
济宁火柴厂
110—43
济宁 Jining
解珍
济宁火柴厂
110—104
济宁 Jining
顾大嫂
济宁火柴厂
110—30
济宁 Jining
李逵
济宁火柴厂
110— 5
济宁 Jining
花荣
济宁火柴厂
110—63
济宁 Jining
金大坚
济宁火柴厂
110—37
济宁 Jining
阮小二
济宁火柴厂
110—
济宁 Jining
朱仝
110—97
济宁 Jining
杜迁
济宁火柴厂
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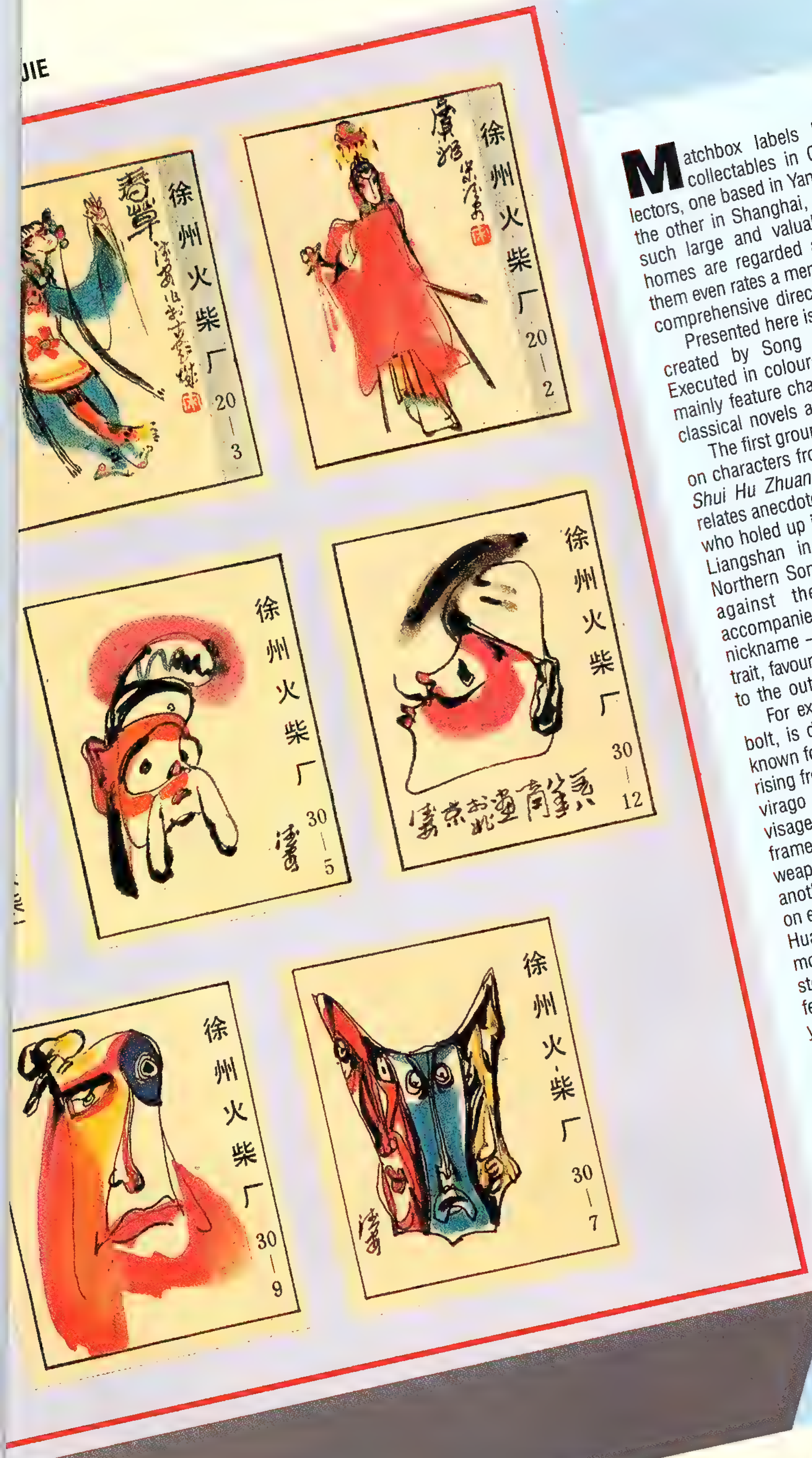
济宁火柴厂


徐州火柴厂
20-3
徐州火柴厂
20-2
徐州火柴厂
30-5
徐州火柴厂
30-12
徐州火柴厂
30-9
徐州火柴厂
30-7

Matchbox labels have become popular collectables in China. In fact, two collectors, one based in Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, the other in Shanghai, have managed to amass such large and valuable collections that their homes are regarded as mini-museums (one of them even rates a mention in a recently published, comprehensive directory of China's museums).

Presented here is a series of matchbox labels created by Song De'an of Xuzhou, Jiangsu. Executed in coloured ink and water, his designs mainly feature characters from Chinese legends, classical novels and traditional opera.

The first group of these vivid designs is based on characters from the early Ming-dynasty novel *Shui Hu Zhuan* (*Outlaws of the Marsh*), which relates anecdotes about the band of 108 brigands who holed up in the swampy area around Mount Liangshan in Shandong Province during the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) and rebelled against the government. Each figure is accompanied by a symbol representing his or her nickname — derived from a decisive personality trait, favourite weapon, or occupation before taking to the outlaw life.

For example, Qin Ming, nicknamed Thunderbolt, is depicted with fiery hair while Xie Zhen, known for his cunning, sports a couple of snakes rising from his forehead like antlers. The fearsome virago Madam Gu wears a tiger cap. The dark-visaged and obviously fierce man with a beard framed by two axes — his preferred combat weapons — is thereby clearly identified as Li Kui; another man's face is formed by a long crossbow on either side, telling us this is the excellent archer Hua Rong. The menacing character with enormous, exaggerated arms raised to the sky was a stele-carver by profession, while the melancholy fellow whose face is flanked by fishes was — as you'd guess — a fisherman before joining the outlaws. Zhu Tong, the man with the fine black beard and masterful stare, was an upright and respected constable before he was tricked by a government official and forced to flee.

Other labels depict characters from popular classical works and operas; female roles, clowns and generals are among those represented.

Translated by M.K.

The Chrysanthemum Spirit

Stories about ghosts, fox-fairies, demons and sundry other supernatural beings benign and malevolent have been popular in China since at least the Tang and Song dynasties (seventh to thirteenth centuries). As we note in our Special Features article, *Ghost Festival in 'Ghost City'*, the other world still exerts a certain fascination even nowadays.

Pu Songling (1640-1715), a native of Zichuan County in Shandong Province, delighted in such stories. The collapse of the Ming dynasty and establishment of the Qing dynasty occurred during his lifetime. In retelling the folk stories he heard, refining and polishing them, and incorporating his own viewpoint, he was able to reflect his own times and often indirectly express his hatred of the Manchu regime.

Now considered a Chinese classic, his *Tales of Liaozhai* contains stories compiled over a long period. The preface to the first edition of 1766, which held 431 tales, contained an explanation of how the author worked: 'I share the tastes of Su Dongpo (the famous Song-dynasty poet), who enjoyed listening to ghost stories. Each time I hear one, I jot it down, and later write the material up into tales. For a long time, too, friends from different parts of the country have been sending me stories; so my collection is growing all the time.'

In addition to the more ghoulish and weird themes where, satisfyingly to his readers no doubt, the good tend to find happiness and the wicked come to a bad end, many of his stories are love stories, sometimes dealing with ordinary humans, sometimes pairing men with fox-fairies (spirits disguised as seductive women) or spirits of insects, birds, flowers or trees. Despite the rich imaginative content and the supernatural dimension of these stories, however, their underlying mood is essentially realistic, as we see in *The Chrysanthemum Spirit*, reproduced here in full.

Taken from *Selected Tales of Liaozhai* and reproduced by kind permission of Panda Books, Chinese Literature Press, Beijing

Ma Zicai, a native of Beijing, came of a long line of chrysanthemum lovers, but outdid them all in his passion for these flowers. Did he but hear of a rare plant he would gladly travel a thousand *li* to buy it. One day a guest from Nanjing happened to mention that a cousin of his had one or two kinds unknown in the north. In high delight Ma packed up at once and set off with him to Nanjing, where repeated requests and appeals procured him two slips. Having wrapped up his treasures well, Ma started back.

On the road he overtook a handsome young man who was riding a donkey behind a painted carriage. They fell to talking and the youth, who gave his name as Tao, expressed himself with distinction. Upon learning where Ma was from, he remarked, "There is no such thing as a poor chrysanthemum. All depends on the cultivator." They discussed ways of growing chrysanthemums to the great enjoyment of Ma, and he asked where the other was going.

"My sister is tired of Nanjing," was the reply. "We want to make our home in the north."

"I am a poor man but have room to spare in my hut," suggested Ma eagerly. "If it is not too humble, you need not trouble to look for other lodgings."

Tao approached the carriage to consult his sister, and when she drew back the curtain to speak to him Ma saw a lovely girl of twenty or thereabouts. Her eyes on her brother, she said, "I have no objection to humble rooms, provided the courtyard is spacious." Ma affirmed that it was, and they went back together.

South of Ma's house stood a cottage in a plot of waste land and Tao, liking the place, put up there. Every day he came to Ma's northern yard to tend his chrysanthemums and he could restore a withered plant to life by pulling it up and planting it again. He and his sister lived frugally, however, sharing Ma's meals every day, apparently never cooking in their own kitchen. Ma's wife, a daughter of the Lu family, took a fancy to Tao's sister and often sent them over some measures of rice. This sister, Yellow Flower, was a most entertaining companion who often dropped in to see Mrs Ma. The two of them would sit at their sewing together.

One day Tao said to Ma, "Your family is not well-off, my friend, yet here we are troubling you every day for meals. This can't go on. I mean to start selling chrysanthemums for a living."

Ma with his strict sense of honour took umbrage at this. "I thought you were a high-minded scholar, content with poverty," he said. "This scheme of yours to trade in chrysanthemums is an insult to the flower!"

"To work for a living is not money-grubbing," retorted Tao with a smile. "There is nothing disgraceful about selling flowers. To be sure, men should not go all out for wealth, but neither need they insist on being poor."

When Ma said nothing, Tao got up and left. After that he took away the broken sprigs and poor plants that Ma had no use for, but stopped coming to eat with his friend unless invited.

When it was nearly time for the chrysanthemums to flower, to Ma's astonishment Tao's gate became as noisy as a marketplace. He went to look and saw townsfolk buying flowers. They streamed in one after another and carted or carried away the plants, rare specimens which he had never set eyes on. Disgusted with Tao's mercenary ways, Ma wanted to break with him; yet he longed desperately for some of those wonderful plants. He went to Tao's door to make some caustic remark, when the young man came out, took his hand and led him inside. Only then did Ma see that the half *mu* of waste land had become a nursery garden with not so much as an inch of unused ground. When plants were dug up for removal, Tao took cuttings, and all the flowers in his plot were magnificent blooms. Examining them more closely, Ma discovered they were plants he had pulled up and thrown away.

Meanwhile Tao had gone inside for wine and food which he set out by the flowers. "Poverty put an end to my high principles," he joked. "These last few days I have made enough to offer you a drink."

Presently his sister called him from the house and Tao went in to return with some fine dishes excellently cooked.

Ma asked, "Why has your sister never married?"

"The time hasn't come yet," said Tao.

"When is it to be?"

"Forty-three months from now."

"How can you be sure?"

Tao smiled but made no reply and after a pleasant time together they parted.

The next day when Ma called again he found to his amazement that the cuttings put in the day before were now more than a foot high. He insisted on being told how this was done.

"This is a secret," said Tao. "In any case, you don't need it to make a living."

Some days later when fewer customers were coming, Tao wrapped his flowers in straw mats, loaded them on to carts and went away. It was nearly mid-spring the next year when he returned with cartloads of exotic blooms from the south. He opened a flower shop in the capital, sold out in ten days and went home to cultivate more chrysanthemums. Those who had bought his flowers the previous year and kept the stock told Ma that the plants went off the following season.

So they came back to buy more, and Tao grew richer and richer. A year later he and his sister enlarged their house, while the year after that they built themselves a mansion. They could do as they pleased without asking Ma for help. By now the flower-beds were part of their courtyard, so they bought another piece of land and walled it in for growing chrysanthemums. That autumn Tao took all the plants away again and was still away by the end of the following spring, when Ma's wife fell ill and died. Ma wanted to marry Tao's sister, Yellow Flower, but when he sent to sound her out, although the girl smiled as if she were not unwilling, she told him she must wait for her brother's return.

More than a year passed but still Tao did not come back. Yellow Flower made her servants plant chrysanthemums just as he had, and more money came pouring in. She purchased two thousand *mu* outside the village, and made the house even more magnificent. It was then that a friend from east Guangdong arrived with a letter from Tao to Ma encouraging him to marry Yellow Flower. It was dated the day of the death of Ma's wife, just forty-three months, he remembered, after their feast in the garden. Filled with wonder, he showed this letter to Yellow Flower and asked, "Where shall I send wedding gifts?" But she refused to accept any gifts and because Ma's own house was shabby she urged him to move into hers. This he would not do, however. So they chose an auspicious date and were duly married.

After their marriage Yellow Flower had a door made in the wall to the southern house, passing through this each day to supervise her servants. Ashamed to live on his wife, Ma told her to keep the accounts of the two households separate; but she went on taking all they needed from the larger house until, in less than half a year, Ma's home was full of Tao's belongings. He ordered his men to return every single item and not to bring them back; but in less than ten days things were in confusion once more. This happened several times till he was quite frantic.

Yellow Flower laughed and teased, "Aren't you tired of being poor and honest?"

Ma felt abashed at that and gave up troubling, leaving everything to his wife. Thereupon she got workmen and materials to start rebuilding, and her husband could not stop her. In a few months new buildings joined both establishments, and there was no division between them. Although at Ma's request she stopped selling chrysanthemums, they still lived in a grander style than rich old families. This made Ma uncomfortable and he protested, "Thirty years I have been poor and honest, but look at me now! I am tied to your apron strings. This is no life for a man! Everyone hopes for wealth, but I wish I were poor again."

"You mustn't think me grasping," replied Yellow Flower. "But unless I have some wealth I am afraid people will say Tao Yuanming's[1] descendants are doomed to be poor — not even after a hundred generations can they live in comfort. I must stop them making fun of our family poet. However, it is hard for a poor man to become rich but quite easy for a rich man to become poor. You can squander all our money if you like. I shan't begrudge it."

"There is nothing more shameful than squandering someone else's money."

"You don't want to be rich and I can't abide being poor. Why don't we live apart, then? Plain living and high thinking for you, vulgar comfort for me — how would that do?"

So a thatched hut was built in the garden, and Yellow Flower chose some pretty serving-maids to look after her husband there. At first he was quite contented, but after a few days he started missing his wife; yet when he asked her over she would not come, so that he was forced to go to her and was soon dropping in at her house every other day.

Then Yellow Flower teased, "Surely no man with scruples eats in one house and sleeps in another?"

Ma laughed too and had no answer, and so once more they started living together.

Then Ma went to Nanjing on business, arriving in autumn when chrysanthemums bloom. As he passed a flower shop one morning, he saw a magnificent display of fine blossoms and wondered if this was Tao's work. The next moment the owner came out, and it was Tao. Very happy, they talked of all that had happened since they parted and Ma stayed there for the night. He urged Tao to go back with him, but his brother-in-law replied, "Nanjing is my home. I shall marry and settle down here. I have saved a small sum I would like you to take to my sister. Early next year I shall pay her a short visit."

Ma would not hear of this, of course, but insisted: "Our family is now quite well-to-do. We can sit back and take things easy. There is no need for you to keep on in business." He stayed there and told the shop assistants to lower the prices so that all the flowers were sold in a few days. Then he made Tao pack up and they hired a boat to go north. When they reached home, Yellow Flower had everything ready — rooms, bed, couch, bedding and all as if she knew in advance of her brother's coming.

After Tao's return, as soon as he had unpacked, he carried out extensive improvements in the garden and spent all his time playing chess and drinking with Ma, not making any new friends. When Ma offered to find a wife for him, he refused. So his sister sent two maids to stay with him, and after three or four years he had a daughter.

Tao was fond of wine but no drunkard. So one day, when Ma had a visit from a friend named Zeng, another formidable drinker, he encouraged the two to compete. They drank and made very merry, finding pleasure in each other's company. The drinking lasted from ten in the morning until two that night, during which time each finished a hundred pots of wine. Then Zeng, who was thoroughly tipsy, slept at the table while Tao started back to his room. As he staggered out, however, he tripped over a chrysanthemum bed and fell, shedding his clothes, and taking root in the ground turned into a huge chrysanthemum the height of a man, with a dozen flowers each as large as a man's fist! Absolutely astounded, Ma went to tell Yellow Flower, who hurried over to pull the chrysanthemum up. She left it lying on the ground, exclaiming, "How could you get so drunk!" Then she covered the plant with some clothes and told Ma to go away with her and not look. In the morning, when he went back, he found Tao lying by the flower-bed. The knowledge that brother and sister were chrysanthemum spirits simply deepened the love and respect he felt for both.

Now that Tao had revealed himself, he drank more recklessly. He often sent a note to invite Zeng over and the two became fast friends. On the mid-spring festival known as the Birthday of Flowers[2], Zeng called with two servants bearing a big jar of liquor in which medicinal herbs had been steeped. He challenged Tao to finish this with him. When they had nearly emptied the jar yet seemed little the worse for it, Ma quietly poured in more wine which they finished too. Zeng became quite drunk and his servants carried him home, while Tao fell to the ground and turned into a chrysanthemum again. Ma was not taken by surprise or alarmed but pulled up the plant as he had seen his wife do, and waited beside it to watch the metamorphosis. As time went by however, the leaves started to wither and in alarm he went to tell Yellow Flower, who cried out in dismay, "You have killed my brother!" She ran to look — the roots had shrivelled up. Overcome with grief, she cut off the stem and buried the root in a pot, which she took to her room and watered every day. Ma felt fearful remorse and was very angry with Zeng, but a few days later he heard that Zeng too had died of over-drinking. Before long the chrysanthemum in the pot sprouted, and in the ninth month it blossomed. Since it had a short stem, white flowers and a fragrance like wine, they named it Tao the Drunkard. It did best when watered with wine. Tao's daughter grew up to marry the son of a respectable family, while Yellow Flower lived to a ripe old age without any further happenings of a marvellous nature.

The recorder of these marvels comments: The world may lament when a man whose true home is among green hills and white clouds drinks himself to death, yet he himself may think it a pleasant end. To have such a flower in your courtyard is like having the company of a good friend or lovely woman. I must look for a flower of this kind!

Translated by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang

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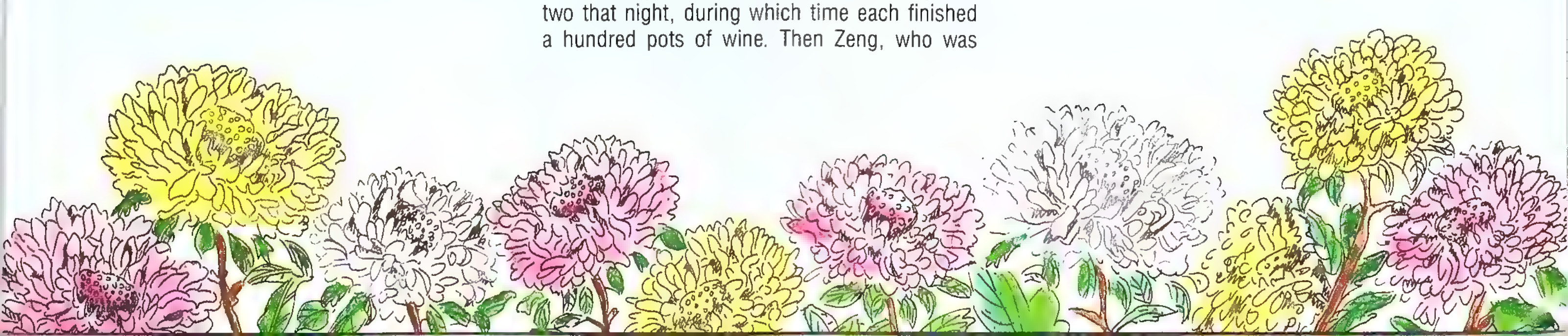
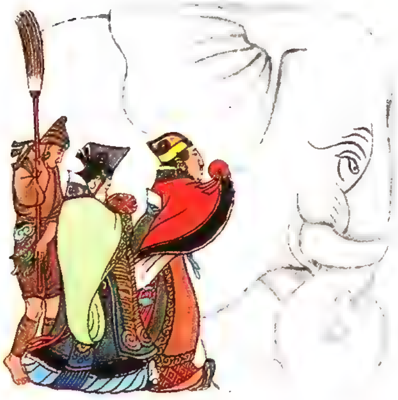
[1] A famous fourth-century poet who loved chrysanthemums

[2] The middle of the second month by the lunar calendar

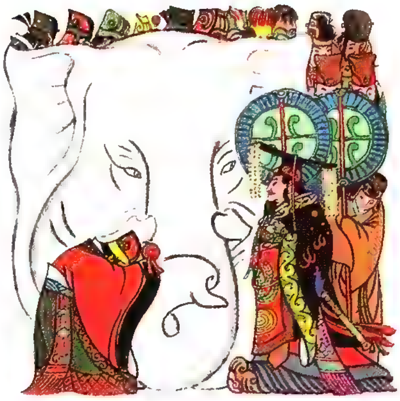


How Cao Chong Weighed the Elephant

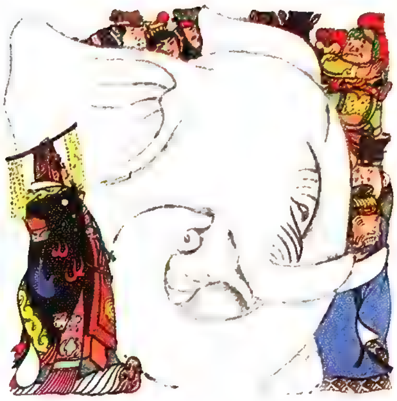
DRAWINGS BY HE YOUZHI
TEXT BY QIAN ZHIQING



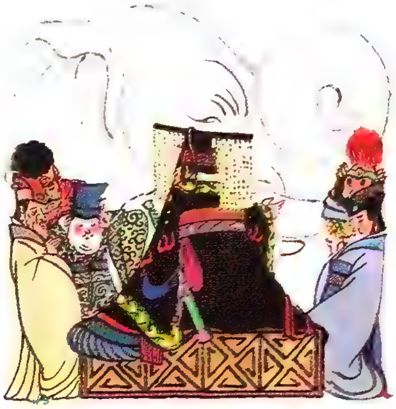
1 During the troubled period of the Three Kingdoms, Sun Quan (182-252) of Wu presented Cao Cao (155-220) of Wei with an elephant to mark the alliance between the two rulers.



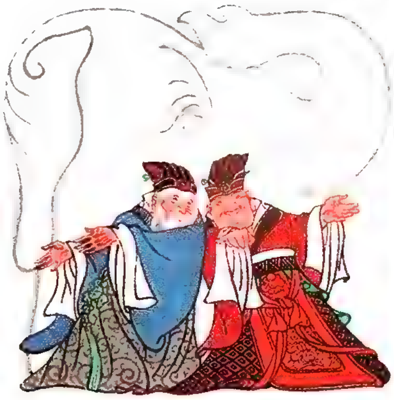
2 All Cao Cao's court, both civil officials and military officers, crowded round, the better to see the marvellous beast.



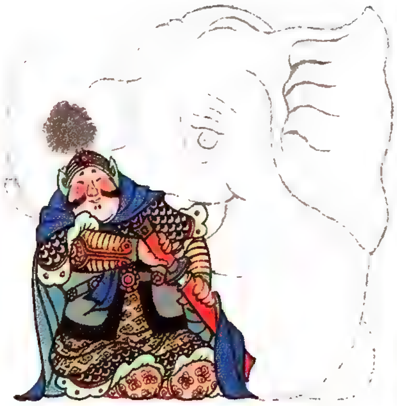
3 'Its leg is as thick as a pillar, its back as big as a wall!'



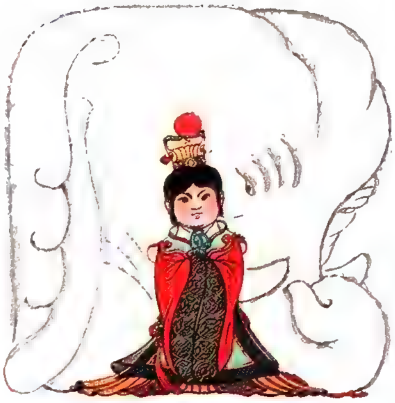
4 Cao Cao asked the assembly: 'Does anybody here have any idea how to weigh this elephant?'



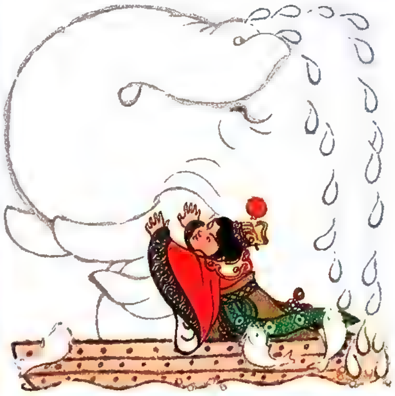
5 Some of them suggested building a balance, using a tree and its roots as the beam.



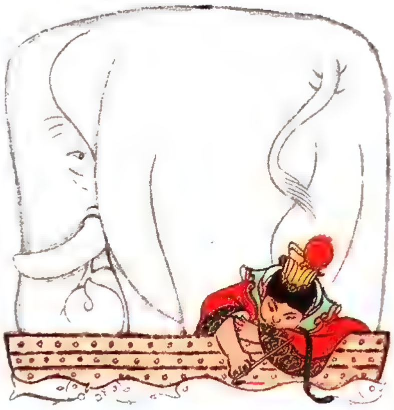
6 Another courtier suggested it would be easier to kill the elephant, chop it up and then weigh the pieces.



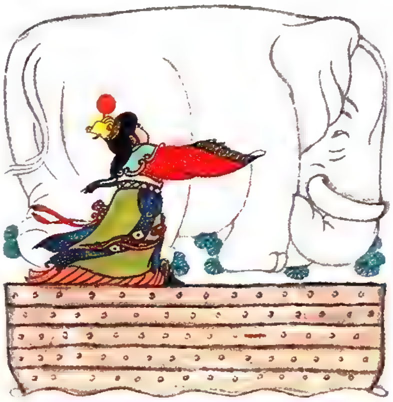
7 But Cao Chong, Cao Cao's seven-year-old son, had an idea of his own.



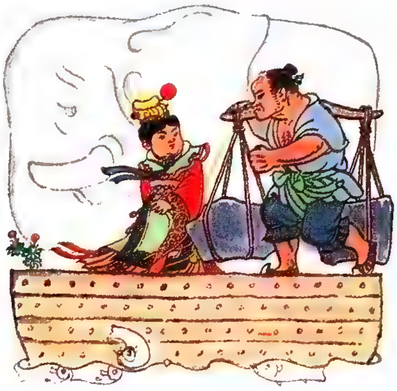
8 Not without some difficulty, he made the elephant climb on to a large, flat-bottomed barge.



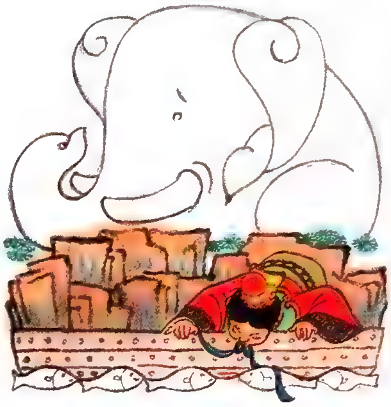
9 When the barge sank lower in the water under the animal's great weight, Cao Chong marked the new water line on the boat's side.



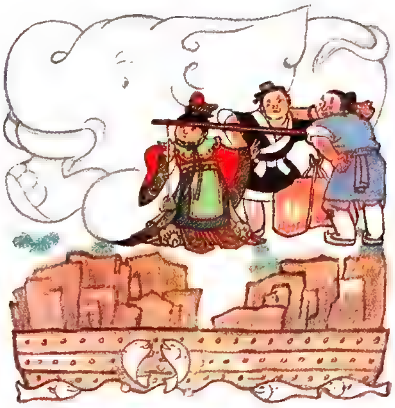
10 As soon as the elephant disembarked, of course, the barge returned to its original position in the water.



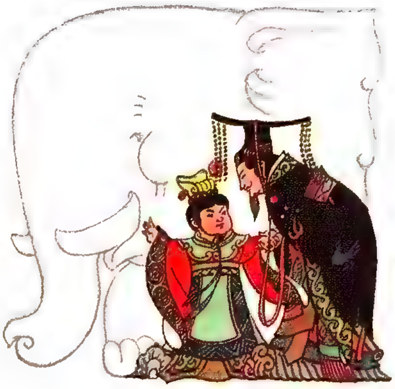
11 Cao Chong then ordered labourers to fill it with stones.



12 When the water reached the level he had drawn on the side of the barge, Cao Chong told them to stop.



13 All that was left for him to do to calculate the elephant's weight was to weigh the stones.



14 His father, Cao Cao, could hardly restrain his joy at having a son who, despite his tender years, showed such initiative and intelligence.

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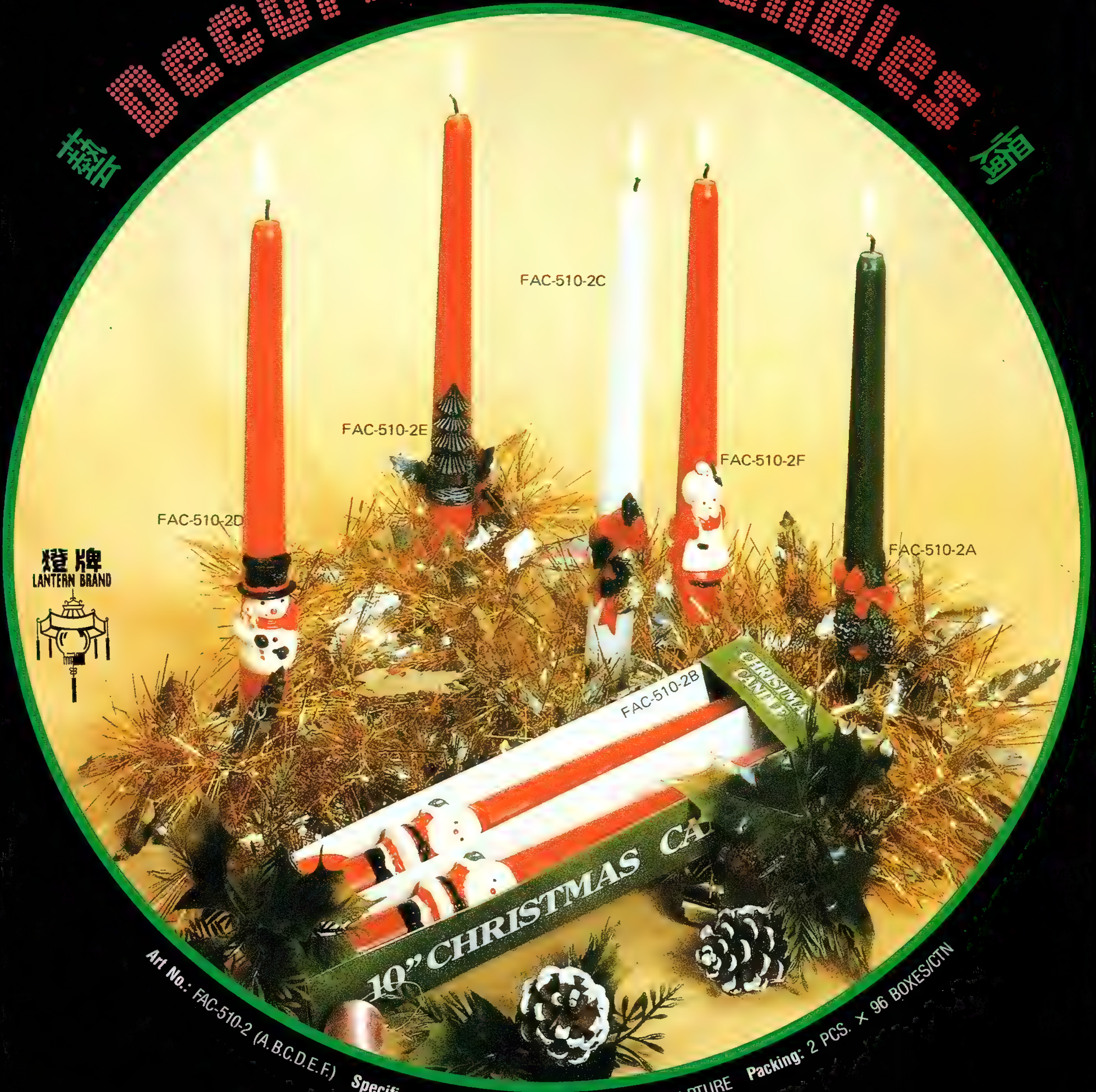
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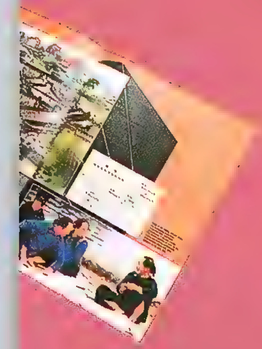

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3 Days

For us in Europe, a hike usually starts at the foot of a mountain when we tie the knots of our big boots and adjust the straps on our backpacks. Here, in China, the adventure begins at Beijing Railway Station when you try to obtain a ticket for a town whose name you can barely pronounce, not knowing at which station you need to get off the train....

Eight hours passed on the train in 'hard seat' in the middle of Chinese fellow-passengers who smoked us out with cigarettes smelling of burning hay. They were most surprised to see us two with our funny bags trying to sleep under the seats....

We left the train at five in the morning at Sache, a small town in Shanxi, four hundred kilometres from Beijing.

It was much colder here, and we pulled on our Chinese down jackets (the same as in France, but ten times less expensive on the free market) and ate a piece of homemade cake. In lamentably bad Chinese and with the aid of a dictionary, we asked for tickets back to Beijing. Strange, you think? Not so! Here in China, the first priority is get yourself a seat on a train away (return tickets as such do not exist). Unfortunately the ticket clerk didn't know which papers foreigners should fill out. We would have to negotiate at the last moment ... with no certainty of getting a ticket, let alone quickly! While we were doing this, all the Chinese in the vicinity gathered around us. They were inquisitive, but obliging. Towards six o'clock, we left for the bus station, escorted by a couple who looked after us while we waited: they offered us a mattress on the floor of the bus company's office.

Two hours by bus across a countryside strangely reminiscent of Colorado. We traversed several villages then crossed a pass at 2,500 metres to the sound of Anglo-Saxon pop music which the bus-driver dedicated to us.

Around eleven o'clock we arrived in Taihuai at the foot of Mount Wutai (Five Terraces). These peaks situated in northeastern Shanxi constitute one of the four holy mountains of Chinese Buddhism (the others being Mount Emei in Sichuan, Mount Putuo in Zhejiang and Mount Jinhua in Anhui). The mountain is consecrated to the worship of the Bodhisattva Manjusri (known as Wenshu in Chinese) who, according to legend, transformed this desolate place into a cool paradise thanks to a precious stone he stole from the Dragon King. Judging from the way we were wrapped up in thirty-six layers of clothing, he certainly succeeded!

We spent the day steeping ourselves in the Buddhist atmosphere of the village, where a number of the temples are grouped. Others are scattered through the surrounding mountains. At the beginning of this century there were no less than 360 temples on Mount Wutai. Wars and the 'cultural revolution' have reduced this number to a ravaged fifty-eight.

Today, tourism is the watchword (to bring in foreign currency) and Mount Wutai is disappearing under the scaffolding.... Foreign tourists are still rare; we wandered around the flagstoned paths imagining the life of a Chinese village in earlier times.

Towards the end of the afternoon we discreetly slipped out of Taihuai and disappeared into the valley leading to the foot of the highest of the five peaks. It culminates at 3,058 metres. Nobody in the village could — or would — give us any information. Apparently, access is not really advised for foreigners.

For two hours we followed the stream, carefully avoiding the roadway. Best not to be seen.... Despite the general opening up during these last few years, foreigners are still 'long-nosed devils'! Throughout our approach march, the summit changed colour continually under the dying rays of the sun. Yellow was the dominant colour; the vegetation had already withered. The sun set, and it started to get really cold. We set up our bivouac in the lee of the wind at a fair distance from the nearest hamlet. We heard the cries of shepherds gathering their scraggy flocks for the night. Comfortably ensconced in our down sleeping bags, we nibbled a few bits of dried fruit and some delicious sorghum biscuits.

At four o'clock in the morning, it was very cold, according to my nose which peeped out from my mummied form. I untied the cord and discovered a magnificent starry sky. All around us the stunted grass was covered with frost. Reflecting the moonlight, it sparkled as if covered with millions of glow-worms. Yves was fast asleep, fists clenched. I shook him until a faint groan became audible. Good enough — he was awake!

Contrary to all normal dietetic rules, we ate nothing; the dried fruit was as hard as iron, the water was frozen and we had no camping gas (it's unobtainable in China).

Soon we set out towards the ridge, hesitating at times since there was no path and we couldn't identify the summit. At each step, the hoar-frost sang under our boots. I had the feeling that I was walking on the spot. I don't really like night marches; I've had the same sensation several times in the Alps when it was necessary to leave a lodge early. We reached the ridge at dawn.

at Mount Wutai

To our left, half an hour's walk away, a monastery looked as though it were perched on a balloon. To the right, about an hour away, we could make out the highest monastery, the one we had been seeing ever since we left the plain.

The sun rose. We were two hundred metres below the summit. We stopped to savour this unique moment. How many monks must have done what we had just done to see 'Buddha's light'. This phenomenon appears when, as the dawn clouds disperse, the sun appearing above the mountains forms an opening in the shape of a diaphragm in which spectators' silhouettes are reflected. But today there was no cloud and the sky was aflame; the countryside changed colour minute by minute. We broke our teeth on the frozen cakes before setting out uphill along a paved path, almost certainly built for the great numbers of pilgrims who used to come to Mount Wutai last century.

The wind howled in our hoods. We were at the summit, overhung by thick masonry looking very like an alpine refuge! All around us stones and ruins littered the ground. Inside the temple we discovered three damaged statues, feet covered in snow. In front of the central statue an altar had been set up, probably by the devotees who live in the valley. As we explored the surrounding area, it became obvious that this temple too had been destroyed during the 'cultural revolution'.

For two hours we followed the ridge towards the east. We walked in deep silence along the paved path. From time to time we stopped to try – without much success – to decipher the inscriptions on the steles which flanked the path. At the pass through which the road from Sache to Taihuai passes, we threw a last look into this valley before taking a footpath along the mountain's flank. This, we hoped, would take us back towards the plain ... and the railway station. We passed tiny fields clinging to slopes which would have defeated a cow from Normandy! The sorghum had been cut only recently, and our walk was punctuated by the sound of flails threshing grain in the valley. We paused several times to quench our thirst and admire the landscape. The mountains were jagged and steep; the shadows created by the sun on the numerous crests produced truly grotesque effects.

Our bags seemed to be getting heavier. Especially as, since the day before, we had been toting marble balls. These balls are used by elderly Chinese people to aid their arthritis. They manipulate three or four of them (each five centimetres in diameter!) with great dexterity in one hand. They turn them ceaselessly, massaging and relaxing the whole body. In a Beijing park I once saw an old man manipulating no less than six balls. Would this be of use for climbers suffering from tendinitis?

We slowly descended towards a small village tucked into the bottom of a narrow valley. The sun was already hidden behind the mountains. The farmers stopped work for a moment to stare at us. They were very curious but never hostile. We could guess their thoughts without too much trouble. We continued, accompanied to the end of the village by laughing children – they must have thought we were mad....

Not too much later, we found ourselves in a Chinese house; a family had invited us in along the main road as we were patiently waiting for a lift to take us to the railway station at Sache. We accepted the invitation as much out of curiosity as tiredness. Two rooms: a bedroom (with a metal bed) which also acted as a storage area, and the main room, where a wooden bed – taking up half the space – served as table and chairs during the daytime. On the wall were a few pictures cut out from magazines. Beside the bed stood a cauldron where water boiled continuously for tea and noodles. The smoke was drawn out by a fan towards a small chimney to the left of the entrance. A low table decorated with a broken mirror completed the furnishings. This was where the family's toilet necessities were arranged. A few photos, two postcards of the surroundings. We were thunderstruck that a family of six could live in such a small space so lacking in comfort....

We got out our sleeping bags under the interested gaze of a goodly proportion of the village population. They couldn't stop laughing at the sight of the *faguoren* (Frenchmen) inserting themselves into their sarcophaguses, and were astonished when we declined the coverings offered by our hosts.

The following morning found us rolling slowly towards Beijing in an old lorry which stopped every fifty kilometres to have its radiator topped up. As we rattled along at twenty-five kilometres an hour, we admired the mountains while dreaming of that short time shared with the farmers of Mount Wutai, with 'our' Chinese family of whom we do not even know the name....

Christophe Rhein

Translated by J.M.

Other Major Sichuan Attractions

As we have seen in our Special Features, Sichuan is full of tourist interest; it contains a wealth of natural beauty as well as countless historical and cultural relics. The following merit special mention.

Mount Emei

Situated in western Sichuan thirty kilometres from Leshan, this is one of China's four major Buddhist mountains and a magnet for pilgrims, hikers and tourists alike. It is relatively easily accessible, since Emei Town is located on the Chengdu-Kunming railway line.

The main peak rises to 3,099 metres above sea-level. There are still around twenty active monasteries and temples on the mountain (the remnants of some one hundred), many of which offer vegetarian food and basic accommodation for the night. The best way to see all the mountain's beauty spots and temples and appreciate its atmosphere is on foot, for which at least two to three days should be allowed. However, there are easier options. Buses and mini-buses shorten the approach time, and there are hardy porters to carry the more fragile (or less active) up the mountain's steep paths and steps. The new forty-person cable car is also now in operation up to Jinding (Golden Top) at 3,048 metres. From there it is only about an hour's walk to the main summit, Wanfo (10,000 Buddhas) Peak.

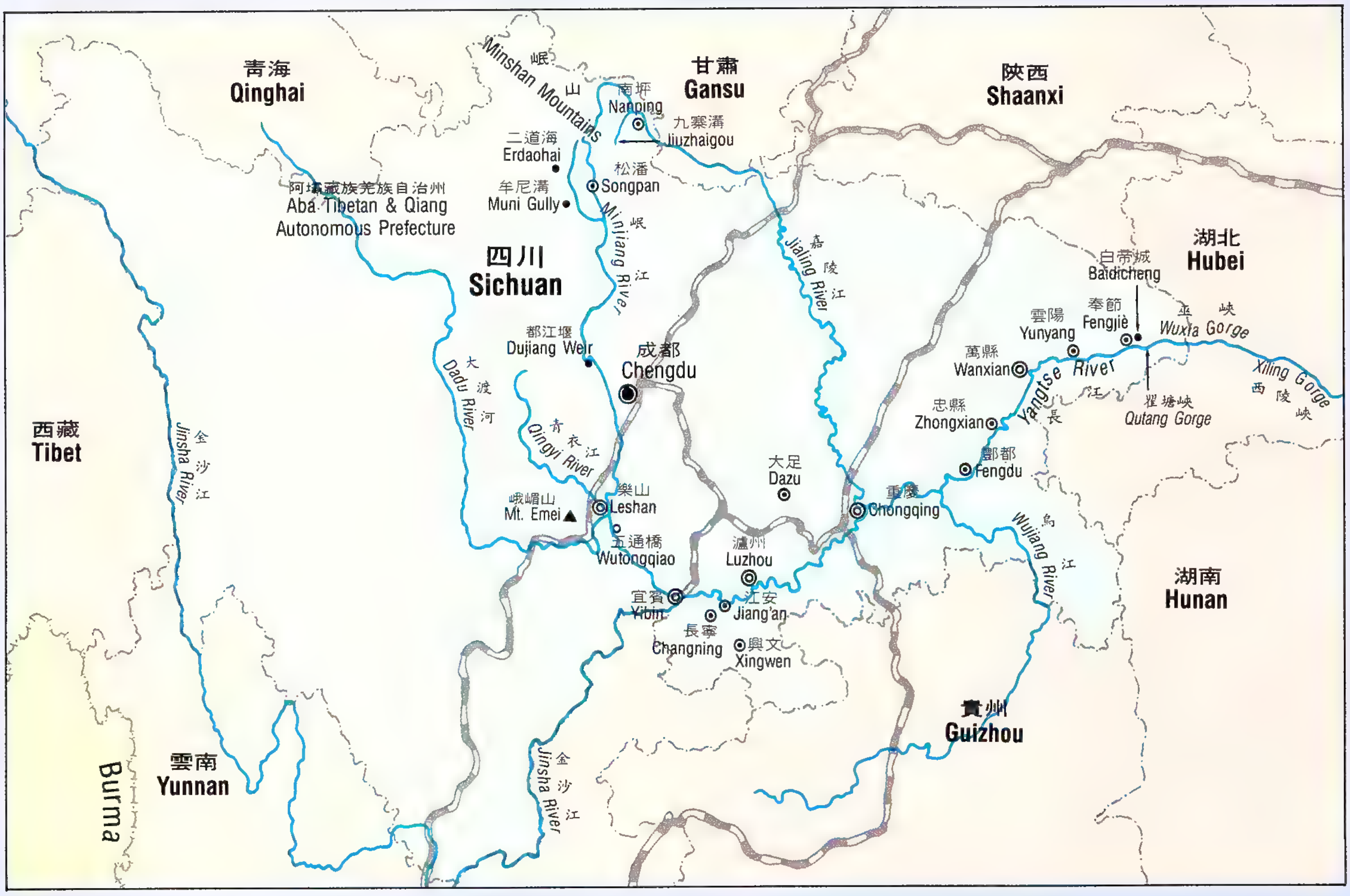
Buses connect Emei Station, Emei Town and the village of Baoguo at the foot of the mountain. There are also direct buses from Baoguo to Leshan (taking one hour) and to Chengdu (four hours).

Dazu Buddhist Caves

Roughly mid-way between Chengdu and Chongqing, the Dazu Caves are less frequently visited than the more famous cave-temple sites at Dunhuang, Luoyang and Datong. Buddhist relics are scattered all over Dazu County, but there are two main areas to view thousands of bas-relief carvings and statues dating mainly from the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties. The caves at Beishan Hill, about two kilometres or thirty minutes' walk north of the small town of Dazu, also contain images on Taoist and Confucian themes.

More interesting is Baoding, fifteen kilometres northwest of Dazu. This was the centre of a Tantric Buddhist sect. More than 10,000 images were carved in a horseshoe curve along a 500-metre stretch of the hill under the sponsorship of the monk Zhao Zhifeng, who devoted seventy years (1179-1249) of his life to the massive project. There is also a Buddhist temple over seven hundred years old at Baoding, to which there are buses from Dazu at frequent intervals.

Dazu itself can be reached directly by bus from Chongqing, a five to seven-hour journey. The bus from Chengdu takes ten hours. Dazu is also accessible by rail via Youtingpu on the Chengdu-Chongqing railway line; the journey time is around five hours from Chongqing, seven from Chengdu.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No. 74	Sichuan-Tibet Special
No. 85	Jiuzhaigou Valley, Huanglong and Lake Erdaohai
No. 94	Sichuan's Liangshan Mountains (special issue on Yi minority)
No. 102	Hailuogou (glacier park on Mount Gongga)

Ferry Schedules Chongqing — Wuhan

Wuhan — Chongqing		Destination	Chongqing — Wuhan	
Fast	Regular		Fast	Regular
18:00	09:00	**Wuhan**	15:00	18:00
06:00 06:30	21:00 21:30	**Chenglingji**	—	08:30 08:00
20:00 20:30	12:00 12:30	**Shashi**	20:00 19:30	22:40 22:10
—	18:00 18:30	**Zhicheng**	—	19:00 18:30
04:30 05:00	22:00 02:00	**Yichang**	14:00 13:30	16:00 15:30
05:30 06:00	02:30 03:00	**Gezhouba Dam**	13:00 12:30	15:00 14:30
—	10:30 11:00	**Badong**	—	10:40 10:20
—	15:00 15:30	**Wushan**	—	—
19:00 19:30	18:10 18:40	**Fengjie**	—	07:00 06:40
—	23:10 23:40	**Yunyang**	—	—
06:00 09:00	09:00 10:30	**Wanxian**	01:00 22:40	02:20 20:30
15:00 15:30	17:00 17:30	**Zhongxian**	—	17:00 16:30
—	20:50 21:10	**Gaojiazhen**	—	—
19:45 20:00	22:40 23:00	**Fengdu**	—	—
—	03:00 03:30	**Fuling**	—	12:00 11:30
07:30	12:00	**Chongqing**	11:00	07:00

Flights Chengdu — Chongqing — Guangzhou — Hong Kong

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou — Chengdu	1	19:20	20:20	4356
	2	18:35	20:40	4344
	3	20:00	21:55	4312
	3	09:20	11:15	4314
	3	18:35	20:25	4340
	6	15:55	17:45	4326
	7	11:47	14:00	3403
	3 5	16:05	17:55	4324
	1 2 4	13:25	15:15	4304
	1 4 6 7	18:35	20:30	4306
	1 2 4 5 6 7	14:40	16:35	4302
Chengdu — Guangzhou	1	11:45	13:40	4355
	2	11:45	13:40	4343
	3	06:50	08:35	4311
	3	17:30	19:15	4313
	3	07:15	08:55	4339
	6	07:15	08:55	4325
	7	14:45	17:00	3404
	3 5	13:40	15:20	4323
	2 5 7	07:15	08:55	4303
	1 4 6 7	07:00	08:45	4305
	1 2 4 5 6 7	12:15	13:55	4301
Hong Kong — Chengdu	3	17:30	19:35	CA4004
	6	11:40	13:45	CA4002
Chengdu — Hong Kong	3	14:25	16:40	CA4003
	6	08:15	10:40	CA4001
Chongqing — Chengdu	1	13:00	14:10	CH424
	4	13:30	14:30	CH422
	4	18:40	19:40	4406
	7	20:05	21:05	4408
	1 3 5	11:55	12:50	4419
Chengdu — Chongqing	1	07:50	08:50	CH423
	4	07:30	08:30	CH421
	4	06:35	07:35	4405
	7	07:40	08:40	4407
	1 3 5	13:35	14:20	4420
Guangzhou — Chongqing	1	14:20	16:10	4358
	4	16:05	17:55	4320
	7	11:55	13:40	4332
	3 6	11:00	14:45	4372
Chongqing — Guangzhou	1	17:00	18:35	4357
	4	13:45	15:20	4319
	7	09:35	11:10	4331
	3 6	06:50	10:25	4371
Hong Kong — Chongqing	4	11:20	13:20	CA4006
Chongqing — Hong Kong	4	08:15	10:45	CA4005

(Valid summer and autumn, 1989)

Train Schedules Chengdu — Guangzhou

251/255 F.T.	Train No. / Station	252/256 F.T.
21:30	**Chengdu**	08:17
01:52	**Neijiang**	04:00
08:47	**Chongqing**	20:46
11:06	**Qijiang**	18:16
16:51	**Zunyi**	12:50
19:11	**Xifeng**	11:09
21:34	**Guiyang**	08:01
01:36	**Kaili**	03:58
07:45	**Huaihua**	21:20
16:53	**Xiangtan**	11:24
18:27	**Changsha**	10:08
19:35	**Zhuzhou**	08:53
21:45	**Hengyang**	06:26
05:47	**Shaoguan**	22:08
07:51	**Yingde**	19:43
10:38	**Guangzhou**	16:30

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Average Climatic Conditions in Sichuan's Yangtse Area

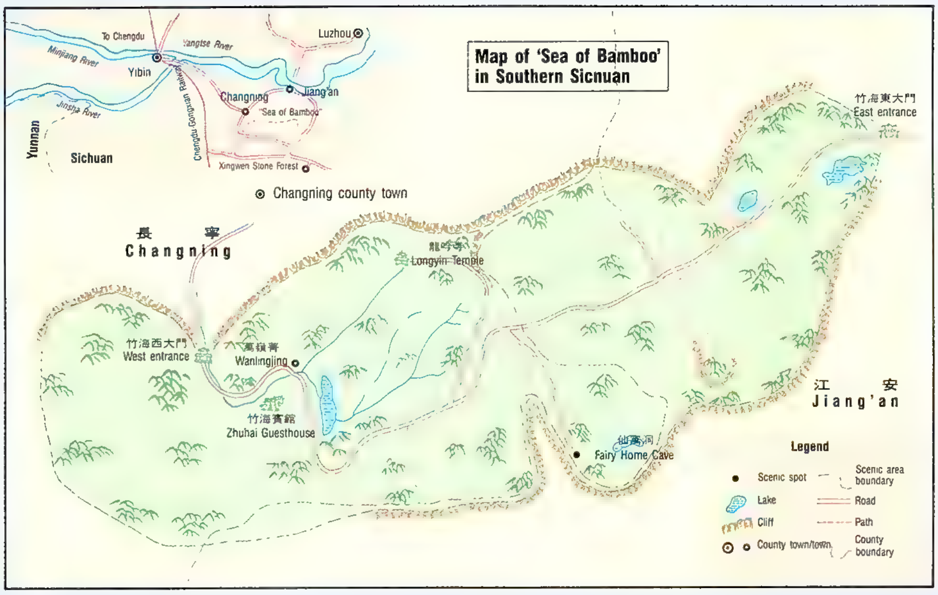
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chengdu	Temperature (°C)	5.6	7.6	12.1	17.0	21.1	23.7	25.8	25.1	21.4	16.7	12.0	7.3
	Rainfall (mm)	5.0	11.4	21.8	51.1	88.3	119.4	228.9	265.8	113.5	47.9	16.5	6.4
Leshan	Temperature (°C)	7.1	8.8	13.5	18.2	21.6	23.8	26.0	25.6	22.0	17.4	13.2	8.8
	Rainfall (mm)	13.4	26.8	41.1	82.6	137.8	168.9	330.5	311.9	148.1	85.2	36.9	15.3
Yibin	Temperature (°C)	7.9	9.7	14.4	19.1	22.4	24.5	27.0	26.6	22.9	18.1	13.9	9.7
	Rainfall (mm)	18.1	29.9	40.5	73.8	112.2	157.1	250.8	256.8	130.3	87.8	43.4	20.7
Chongqing	Temperature (°C)	7.5	9.4	14.0	18.8	22.2	25.2	28.6	28.4	24.0	18.4	13.9	9.4
	Rainfall (mm)	18.8	20.9	43.2	72.3	155.4	165.4	150.7	141.0	132.3	99.2	51.2	24.7
Wanxian	Temperature (°C)	6.7	8.6	13.4	18.6	22.3	25.5	28.7	28.2	24.1	18.7	13.6	9.2
	Rainfall (mm)	11.7	19.5	58.1	107.1	163.3	148.9	175.3	163.4	142.2	83.1	52.5	23.7
Fuling	Temperature (°C)	7.1	9.1	13.8	18.7	21.8	25.0	28.7	28.5	24.3	18.5	13.8	9.2
	Rainfall (mm)	16.2	19.2	49.0	79.5	150.4	153.5	148.5	119.6	121.1	97.5	56.1	26.4

Bus Services from Yibin

Route	Tourist Attraction	Distance (Km)	Frequency
Yibin — Changning	Southern Sichuan's 'Sea of Bamboo'	64	4/day
Yibin — Xingwen	Rock Forest	143	3/day
Yibin — Luobiao	Rock tombs	140	2/day
Yibin — Leshan	Great Buddha	264	1/day
Yibin — Dazu	Buddhist cave-temple art	210	1/day

Major Hotels in Yibin Area

Name	Address
Jiuxiang Hotel	Zhuanshu Street, Yibin
Xiezhou Building	Renmin Road, Yibin
Zhuhai Hotel	Wanling Township, Changning County
Shilin Reception Centre	Xingyan Township, Xingwen County
Gongxian Hotel	Gongxian
Chengxiang Hotel	Jiiang'an



To Southern Sichuan's 'Sea of Bamboo'

The best way to the area is to take a train from Chengdu or Chongqing to Yibin. From Yibin there are regular bus services every day to the 'Sea of Bamboo', the Chinese name for which is Zhuhai. There are also frequent buses from the county towns of Changning and Jiang'an.

It is possible to make a pleasant circuit in southern Sichuan by combining this trip with another tourist attraction, Xingwen Rock Forest, sixty-three kilometres to the south.

Buses to the 'Sea of Bamboo'

Route	Distance (km)	Time (hrs)
Yibin — Changning	63	2½
Jiang'an — Changning	32	1
Luzhou — Changning	91	3
Jinshawan — Changning	51	2
Changning — Xingwen	63	2
Changning — Sea of Bamboo	20	1
Jiang'an — Sea of Bamboo	60	3
Luzhou — Jiang'an	60	2

Train Schedules Chongqing — Anbian

529/528 O.P.	Train No. / Station	530/527 O.P.
10:42	**Chongqing**	18:56
16:26	**Dazu**	12:51
19:19 19:31	**Neijiang**	09:35 09:23
22:54 23:09	**Yibin**	06:00 05:45
23:48	**Anbian**	05:07

Train Schedules Chengdu — Yibin — Gongxian

89 Exp.	523 O.P.	Train No. / Station	524 O.P.	90 Exp.
09:38	08:31	**Chengdu**	21:35	15:59
13:51 14:03	16:09 16:22	**Neijiang**	14:49 14:34	11:38 11:26
16:46	19:46 20:06	**Yibin**	10:56 10:36	08:40
	21:35 21:55	**Jinshawan**	09:05 08:45	
	22:42	**Gongxian**	07:56	

Exp. — Express
O.P. — Ordinary passenger train

The Legend of the Weaver Maid and the Cowherd

First appearing in a collection of folk poems recorded by Ying Shao of the Eastern Han more than two thousand years ago, from the times when people wove tales around the mysterious heavenly bodies moving through the night sky, this story of a tragic love between two stars — Vega and Altair — later developed into a fully fledged fairy tale.

The Weaver Maid (Vega), grand-daughter of the Celestial Emperor, is kept busy weaving beautiful brocade from the colourful clouds in the sky. One day, peering down at Earth as she works, she happens to see a young cowherd whose looks she likes. The younger of two orphaned sons of a well-to-do family, he lives with his elder brother. However, the latter's wife treats him shamefully, making him do all the hardest and dirtiest work, but feeding him on slops and leftovers. He is known simply as Cowherd (Altair).

A good and honest character, the young man is saddened by the way he is forced to live and, out one day grazing his ox, he cannot keep back his tears. To his astonishment the ox — a divinity in disguise — starts to give him advice as to what he should do. So Cowherd asks to leave the household, sacrificing most of what is due to him from his father's estate and taking little more than the old ox as his share.

One evening, still following the instructions of his Elder Brother the Ox, as he now calls him, Cowherd finds a group of seven young goddesses bathing in a river. He steals one of the bright robes left on the bank and hides nearby. When they emerge, the youngest is greatly distressed to find her clothes missing. Although she and her sisters search everywhere, the robe cannot be found, and the others have to return to Heaven without her. She, of course, is the Weaver Maid, the most beautiful of them all.

Cowherd appears from hiding and, with the good services of the faithful ox as go-between, manages to convince the Weaver Maid to become his wife. They live happily, producing a son and a daughter.

But after the passage of three years, the Celestial Emperor suddenly realizes that his grand-daughter has married a mere mortal. Extremely displeased, he orders her to return at once to her loom in the sky. If she refuses, her earthly family will be destroyed.

Sick at heart, the Weaver Maid is forced to comply and she prepares to fly away. Returning home to find his beloved wife gone, Cowherd picks up his two small children and, placing each of them in a basket at either end of his bamboo shoulder pole, off he hurries in pursuit. (The star Altair has two tiny stars close by, one on either side.)

Despite her deep feelings, Weaver Maid has to keep going in front, while Cowherd endeavours to catch up. This fruitless chase goes on for some time until Xi Wangmu, the Supreme Goddess of Paradise, happens to pass by. She points with her golden hairpin and a roaring river appears in the sky between the hapless couple, stopping Altair from following. Taking pity on them, however, the goddess obtains the Celestial Emperor's consent to allow them to meet once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

On that day, all kinds of birds (some versions say all the magpies in the universe) congregate and make a feathery bridge (the Milky Way) across the sky for the lovers to cross. But for the rest of the year, Vega and Altair are doomed to be separated by the wide span of the heavens.

EWS

Snake Island Natural Museum

A natural museum is to be inaugurated this August on Shedao (Snake Island), which is situated in the Bohai Sea twelve nautical miles northwest of Lüshun at the southern tip of the Liaodong Peninsula in Liaoning Province.

Now classified as a nature reserve, Shedao is only tiny, but it is famous for its population of thousands of pit vipers (*Agkistrodon halys*), which live on migratory birds and rodents. The museum, although dedicated mainly to the island and its fauna and flora, will also include data on the many other poisonous snakes found throughout China. The exhibits will be backed up by models, photos, videos, etc.

Hubei Beauty Spots Opened

Three more natural attractions have been opened to the general public in Hubei Province. The first is Mount Jiugong in southeastern Hubei's Tongshan County, said to be the place where Li Zicheng (1606-1645), the rebel leader, was killed in battle.

The second of the sites, twelve kilometres from Dangyang in central Hubei, is Mount Yuquan. It shelters a Buddhist monastery of the same name which is famed for its rare iron pagoda dating from the Northern Song (960-1127). Seven metres high, the pagoda weighs 53.3 tons!

Finally, Tenglong Grotto is located in Lichuan County in southwestern Hubei. It is ninety metres high, seventy-six metres wide and extends for thirty-three kilometres — in other words, this is one of the largest cave systems in the world.

Jiangxi's Ancient Trees

A recent survey conducted by Jiangxi's forestry department concluded that the southeastern province has 1,045 trees which are one thousand years old or even older.

The oldest tree identified so far, a camphor tree located in Yantian, Anfu County, is said to have been planted in the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). It is twenty-eight metres tall and has a circumference of 21.5 metres at its widest. It is one of more than fifty ancient camphor trees tagged. Another tree in Qinghua, Wuyuan County, is assessed to be 1,500 years old. Its trunk is so big five people can barely encircle it with their arms.

Other species which have produced trees of such venerable age include the Chinese sweet gum, osmanthus, magnolia and gingko.

Greening the Fujian Coast

According to the provincial authorities, Fujian now has a green shelterbelt along nearly seventy percent of its beautiful 3,200-kilometre-long coastline. Planting of the casuarinas, acacias and pines which make up the shelterbelt was started in the 1950s, and has proved a boon to farmers near the coast. In 1988 the province embarked on a new stage of the project, engaging in overall planning and afforestation in place of the earlier scattered planting.

Ningbo-Hong Kong Ferry Link

The Shanghai Marine Department recently inaugurated a sea link between Ningbo in eastern Zhejiang Province and Hong Kong. The 8,000-ton 'Haida' is designed to transport 190 passengers as well as cargo. Departure from Ningbo is on the fourth and twentieth of every month, and from Hong Kong on the twelfth and twenty-seventh. Journey time is fifty-two hours.

Business Executives' Summer Special

Until September 15 1989, business executives visiting Beijing can take advantage of a special summer rate at the New Exhibition Centre Hotel. With 250 fully equipped guestrooms, a business centre, Western and Chinese restaurants (including the American pub Pete's Place), sauna, gym, billiards room, barber shop and taxi service, the hotel is located to the west of the capital. The special rate of US$39 (FEC 145) includes airport pick-up, room and breakfast.

Capital Fashion

Beijing Fashion Week '89, due to open on September 4, has apparently attracted designers and business people from more than forty countries.

Hundreds of designers from all over China are taking part in a competition for the top awards, to be adjudicated this August. The winning designs will be displayed by models during the fashion week. A total of twenty-three fashion shows are to be held in the capital's Agriculture Exhibition Hall and a special evening gala will also take place. The object of the event is to improve clothing quality within China and to promote trade.

Tang Tea Expert Commemorated

A memorial hall to Lu Yu (733-804), the Tang-dynasty scientist, is under construction at Tianmen, west of Wuhan, in central Hubei Province. Lu Yu is known for his three-volume treatise, *Chajing* (*Canon of Tea*), the first scholarly research ever undertaken into tea and its properties. He codified the cultivation, processing and appreciation of the different varieties of tea, even stipulating how, when and in what company it should be drunk. The memorial's main building, the elegant Temple of Lu Yu, has already been open to the public since November 1988. A bronze statue of the 'Master of Tea' or 'God of Tea', 2.5 metres tall, stands in front of the entrance.

'Heavenly Text' Deciphered

The mystery of an inscription on a huge red rock on Mount Shajia, eight kilometres west of the famed Huangguoshu Falls in Guizhou Province, seems finally to have been solved. An expert from the Guizhou Provincial Institute of Nationalities and a young translator of Yi nationality have together succeeded in decoding it.

They have confirmed that the inscription — known for thousands of years as the 'heavenly text' — records fragments of the Yi people's history. Even the recognition that the language and script involved are Yi was a significant advance. The importance of Yi culture in the southwest is now generally recognized, the Yi having been some of the earliest settlers in the region.

The inscription was written with a mixture of cinnabar powder and alcohol on the 100-metre-long and 30-metre-wide red rock. From the varying sophistication of the script, the researchers have deduced that the inscription was produced over a very long period of time, the earliest part around 1600 B.C., the most recent in the third century. Research into the exact meaning of the 'heavenly text' continues, but it appears that one of the sections describes how a Yi chief, Huoji, helped Zhuge Liang of the Kingdom of Shu (220-265) subdue other tribes of the southwest.

Calling Would-Be Explorers

Xinjiang's Great Outdoors Travel Agency is still organizing special adventure trips for foreigners. Set up in April 1988, it has already welcomed more than four hundred would-be explorers from a dozen countries. In September 1988, for example, it arranged a crossing of the feared Taklimakan Desert — second largest in the world. This year its programmes include crossing the Tianshan Mountains on foot, treks in the Pamirs, a motorcycle tour of the desert just for female participants, a trip down the River Tarim....

NEXT ISSUE

Guizhou's Wumeng Mountains

In the far northwest of Guizhou, home to so many minority peoples, members of the Yi, Hui and Miao inhabit their own autonomous county:

- Rolling Uplands of Northwestern Guizhou
- Colourful Peoples of the Wumeng Mountains
- Haunt of Cranes: Lake Caohai
- Dancing for Love — The Tiaohuapo Festival
- Hui Cross-Stitch Embroidery
- Elaborate Hairstyles of the Miao

Other topics covered:

- Island of Music (Fujian)
- Shantou Revisited (Guangdong)

Stamps on Confucius

To mark the 2,540th birthday anniversary of the great sage and teacher Confucius, which falls on September 28 1989, the Ministry of Posts and Communications is to issue a special commemorative set of two stamps. Each will feature one of the most important periods or themes of his life. First-day covers will also be offered.

Easier Approach to Huangshan

With the recent extension of the airport at nearby Tunxi, Huangshan — the famous scenic mountain in southern Anhui — has become more readily accessible. Boeings can now land at Tunxi, which is only around fifty kilometres by road from Huangshan. There are flights between Tunxi and Beijing, Shanghai, Xiamen and Guangzhou, and flights to Chengdu, Xi'an and Guilin are in the pipeline to assist tour organization.

Hainan Rail Ferry Link

It is intended to connect the Chinese mainland and Hainan Island, now enjoying full provincial status, by means of a rail ferry link. The project foresees extending the existing railway south beyond Suixi, a town on the Leizhou Peninsula in southwestern Guangdong, setting up a ferry link to Haikou, capital of Hainan, and integrating the Hainan end into the island's so far rudimentary railway system. The project is expected to cost at least 500 million yuan.

Han Kiln Sites

Six kiln sites dating from the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) have been found in Guizhou Province, southwestern China. Other objects found at the excavation sites included patterned bricks, cylindrical tiles with cord patterns, tile-ends and animal figures.

Luoyang Folklore Museum

Luoyang, the ancient city in northern Henan Province which was capital of nine dynasties over a period of 1,300 years, now has another museum to add to its wealth of historical and cultural attractions for the visitor.

After serving as a prison for thirty years, the city's largest Qing-style architectural complex has been converted into the Luoyang Folklore Museum. It houses more than 1,200 exhibits on local arts and crafts — including papercuts and embroidered items — as well as customs and lifestyles.

Two special display halls offer a glimpse of a traditional wedding, complete with orchestra, and a formal birthday party. In another hall, the integration of Buddhism, Taoism and indigenous gods to produce the common religion of the people is demonstrated; about sixty gods are depicted. More exhibits on local cuisine, festivals and costumes are planned.

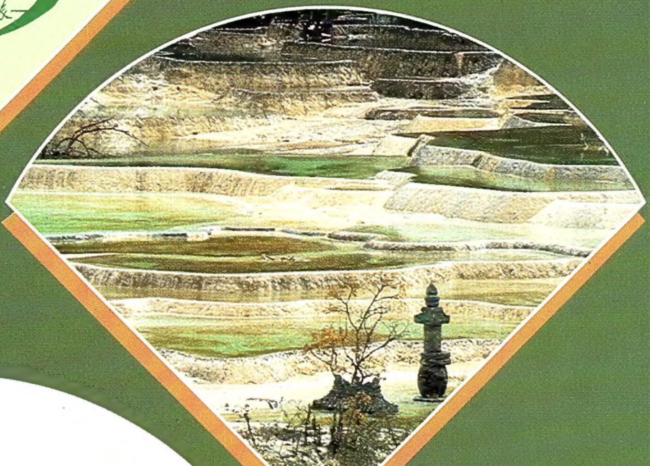
Paradise for Birds

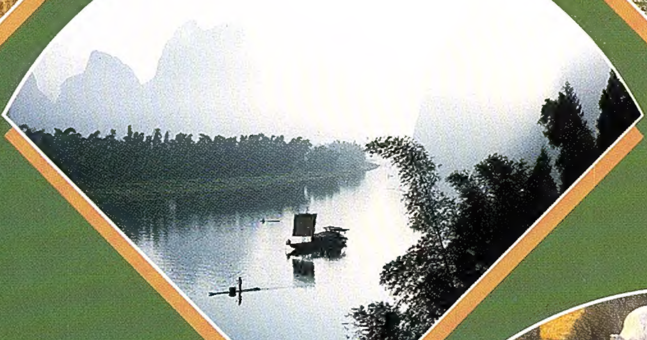
Hundreds of thousands of birds have flocked to an 'oasis' in the desert, a reservoir on the upper to middle reaches of the Huanghe (Yellow River). 300,000 birds of 171 species have made their home among the grass and trees of the 40,000-hectare Qingtongxia Reservoir area south of Yinchuan, capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, in China's arid northwest.

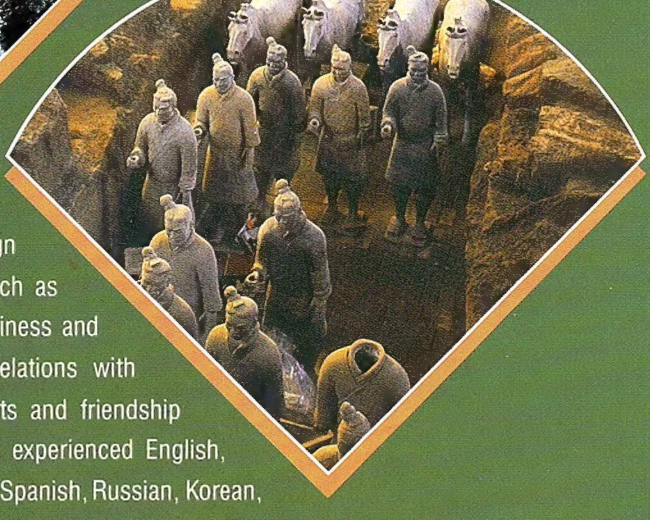
More Han Palace Ruins

Archaeologists recently unearthed the ruins of a palace of the Han dynasty (206 B.C. – A.D. 220) at Cuo’e, a township in Sanyuan County around seventy kilometres north of Xi'an in Shaanxi . The site yielded large quantities of tiles, bricks and earthenware pipes, among them unique cloud-shaped tiles with characters meaning 'long-lasting happiness in Weiyang Palace .

CYTS TOURS CORPORATION







The Beijing-based CYTS Tours Corporation is a nationwide group tour enterprise with more than fifty branches in China and two overseas offices, in Hong Kong and Tokyo. It is one of China's three major tour operators.

Besides providing ground services for foreign tourists, CYTS is involved in other sectors such as commerce and the import and export business and service industries. It has business relations with around three hundred travel agents and friendship associations, and can provide experienced English, Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Korean, Cantonese and Fukienese-speaking guide/interpreters.

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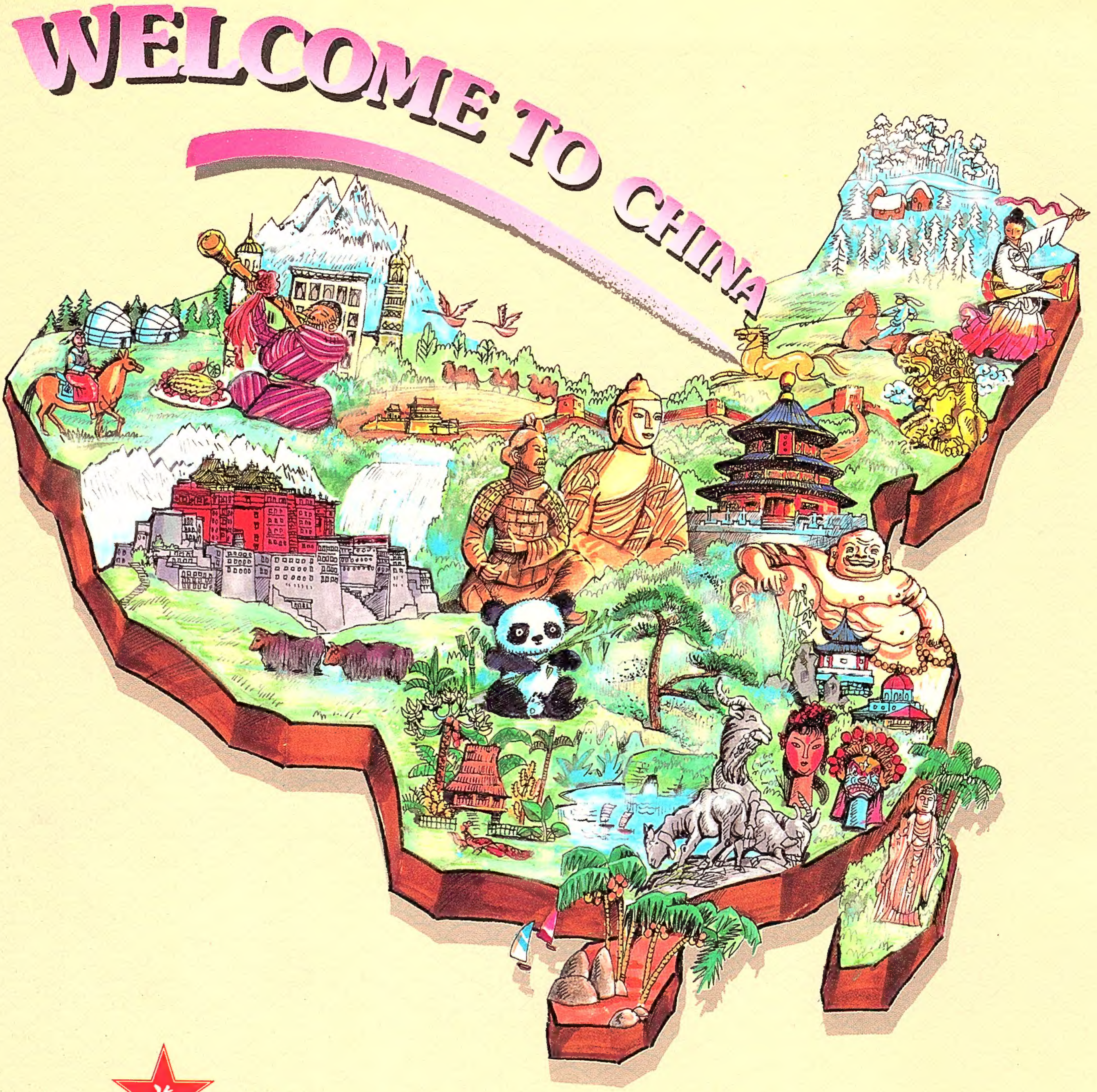

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